

Syrians, Lebanese discuss Arab initiative

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam and Lebanese leaders Tuesday discussed an Arab League initiative aimed at solving Lebanon's political crisis. Officials said the talks with Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss and Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Hussein included other developments in Lebanon. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasser Qaddour also attended the meeting. Syrian and Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militias have battled for supremacy in Beirut and the south since Jan. 1. Lebanon, devastated by more than 13 years of civil war, has had two rival governments and no president since Amin Gemayel's term ended last September. Its army is split and parliament is paralysed. Officials quoted Hoss as saying he was ready to meet an Arab League committee set up last Thursday to try and solve the Lebanese political crisis, the worst since independence in 1941. Syria, which has an estimated 25,000 troops in Lebanon, is not a member of the six-man Arab League ministerial contact group headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

Jordan Times

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Tunis meeting condemns Israel

TUNIS (Petra) — Delegates to the 42nd conference of supervisors of Palestinian refugee affairs currently being held in Tunis Tuesday condemned Israel's continued violations of Islamic holy shrines in occupied Jerusalem. The delegates, who represent Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Arab League, appealed in a statement to the Arab and Muslim nations and the international community to intervene and put an end to the occupation power's actions which aim to seize the Al Aqsa Mosque and Awwal properties in violation of international principles and laws. The statement referred in particular to a recent Israeli government decision to implement a plan under which holy places under occupation, including Al Aqsa Mosque, will come under the direct authority of the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem. The Arab delegates as well as a representative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Arab League are discussing a report that was prepared by the Arab League secretariat on the Palestinian refugee issue, developments in the Palestinian problem, working papers on Israel's settlement programmes in occupied Palestine and its violations of human rights.

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Arbor Day celebrated

Her Majesty Queen Noor greets a child who presented the Queen with flowers at the outset of ceremonies in Amman Monday marking Arbor Day (see story on page 3)

Crown Prince invites Syrian mufti

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has extended an official invitation to Mufti of Syria Sheikh Ahmad Kufaro for visiting Jordan. The invitation was delivered to Sheikh Kufaro by Jordan's ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid.

Jordan charts remedy for economic jitters

The following is an article written by Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Dr. Albert Bontros, and which appeared in the London daily the Guardian in which the Jordanian envoy explains the latest developments in the Jordanian economic scene

JORDAN'S economic situation has sparked speculation in the press ranging from the overly political to the manifestly ludicrous. Far from being the cause of its economic difficulties, Jordan's decision to sever juridical and administrative links with the West Bank has paved the way for far-reaching substantive progress in the search for peace in the region.

Economic jitters are inevitable when issues involving Middle East peace come to the fore, but they are clearly temporary. The Jordanian press has been actively engaged in a free and loud discussion of the issues. The emerging consensus is that the worst is now over.

Adjustments must be made with a view to effecting a better balance between demography and resources. The boom mentality of the 70s is receding fast.

The economic facts are straightforward. Jordan is not an oil-producing country, but its economic fortunes since 1973 have been inextricably linked to the oil economies of the region.

As oil revenues rose dramatically between 1973 and 1981, Jordanian nationals flocked to the Gulf countries, securing highly paid jobs and accumulating personal fortunes in commerce and contracting.

The ensuing flood of remittances, coupled with high levels of foreign government transfers, produced the boom years of the 70s. They were characterised by high economic growth, soaring property values, enhancement of personal wealth and rising levels of consumer spending and imports.

The current situation is dramatically different. Dwindling oil revenues have led to a fall in remittances and an accompanying reduction in official transfers. Much of the newly acquired wealth went into real estate and the subsequent decline in property values brought a reduced level of investment.

Official borrowing to maintain economic growth through public sector expenditures resulted in a sizeable public debt that has largely come due in the current period of economic slowdown.

By 1986, when the oil economies of the Gulf were experiencing falls in their GNP's of 20 to 30 per cent, Jordan managed a modest increase of 3 per cent. Nevertheless it was soon obvious that a fundamental restructuring of the economic base was necessary.

Remittances dropped from \$1,302 million in 1981 to \$1,021 million in 1985 and \$939 million in 1987. Official transfers went down from \$1,309 million in 1981 to \$805 million 1985 and \$610 million in 1987. A prolonged regional recession was made worse by a severe slowdown in private sector investments.

A shortfall in Central Bank foreign reserves meant that Jordan could no longer finance the deficits in the current account and the trade balance, which in 1987 amounted to \$360 million and \$1,772 million respectively.

Measures announced last August were in response to these realities. They aimed largely at encouraging private investments, strengthening the industrial base and boosting exports. They removed licensing requirements for new industrial or agricultural investments, speeded up paperwork, cancelled existing protectionist regulations and provided tax and other incentives for exporters.

The Central Bank effected a managed floatation of the Jordanian dinar in October to achieve a balance between Jordan's needs and sources of foreign currencies and to bring official rates closer to market exchange rates. The floatation of the dinar resulted in an immediate devaluation of about 14 per cent.

The cabinet issued a programme in October outlining fiscal policies for the next three years. The programme called for a gradual reduction of the budget deficit in relation to GDP, priority for local goods and services in government purchases and continued price subsidies for basic commodities and foods.

The plan also called for continued timely repayments of the foreign and domestic public debt and the adoption of policies aimed at improving the balance of payments and strengthening the foreign currency reserves. Measures were put in place to streamline public expenditures.

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Jordan, 4 Mideast countries agree to join power grids

ANKARA (Agencies) — Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries Tuesday agreed to set up for the first time a power grid interconnection in the region.

Ministers of energy from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey decided to start preliminary studies for the project immediately after two days of talks here.

According to Turkish sources the Islamic Development Bank would finance the cost of the preliminary studies with a grant. They said that a technical team will hold a meeting in Amman in March with the bank authorities to choose a counselling firm for the project.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday that the five countries were also contemplating the idea of linking their grids with that of Europe through Turkey.

The Turkish and Iraqi grids are already linked and Iraq is currently supplying parts of Turkey with electric power, Petra said.

Egyptian Energy Minister Maher Abaza told the Associated Press that each country would finance the cost inside their territory for the project.

Muhittin Babakoglu, the head

of the Turkish Electricity Authority, said the project would be completed in about two years.

Abaza said there were plans to extend the system to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in the future.

Turkey set up a power connection with Bulgaria in 1975 and the Soviet Union in 1979. It also started negotiations with Italy six months ago to set up a similar connection via Yugoslavia.

Abaza said the Middle Eastern system could possibly join the European system, which was established in the 1950s.

More Arab homes destroyed; Shamir criticised by troops

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers Tuesday dynamited the homes of three Palestinians suspected of throwing stones at Israeli targets, marking a new policy against protesters in the occupied territories.

In the occupied West Bank, a 17-year-old Palestinian was fatally shot in the stomach during a clash with troops and a second teenager died of a gunshot wound in the heart suffered in a clash on Jan. 7, hospital officials and Arab reports said.

Sixteen Palestinians were also shot and wounded in clashes in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem, the reports said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was met with a storm of criticism from reserve soldiers who complained they were forced to beat innocent people and betray "Israeli values".

The complaints came as Shamir

visited an army tent camp just outside the West Bank's largest city, Nablus.

The soldiers, reservists in the late 20s and early 30s, said they routinely beat innocent people to instill fear in them and enforce order, and many said they were ashamed by what they did.

"When I get up in the morning, I say to myself, now I have to go out and catch a man, and I look at his hands and see he is a working man like myself. And I have to slap him or beat him murderous blows to get him to fear me," said a soldier who identified himself as Yotam from Tiberias.

Tuesday's demolitions, meanwhile, drew protests from some Israeli groups. Five opposition parties filed a motion of no-confidence in the government to be debated by parliament Wednesday, Israel Radio reported.

General Amram Mitzna, the

head of Central Command, said the demolitions in the West Bank town of Qalqilya were part of a new crackdown to stem an upsurge in violence. The army said two other houses were sealed up in the town.

Soldiers also dropped leaflets from a helicopter that hovered over Qalqilya after the demolitions, warning Palestinians that soldiers would destroy the homes of anyone caught stoning Israeli targets, Arab news reports said.

In the Gaza Strip, 34 Arab employees of the "Israeli Civil Administration's" vehicle licensing department resigned in response to calls by underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Gaza hospitals reported that troops shot and wounded four protesters in Rafah, two in the Bureij Refugee Camp, one in Khan Younis and one in Nuseirat.

Arafat rejects elections under Israeli occupation

HELSINKI, Finland (Agencies) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday flatly rejected an Israeli suggestion for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, saying a vote could be held only after the Israelis leave.

"The only elections which are acceptable are under the auspices of the United Nations after the withdrawal of Israel," Arafat said.

Arafat also said his Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was cooperating to find who sabotaged Pan American Flight 103 that blew up over Scotland Dec. 21, killing 270 people.

"We are doing our best... because this is an awful crime," he said, declining to elaborate.

Speaking at a news conference at the end of a two-day visit to Finland, Arafat rejected the notion of elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because the Palestinians had "very, very bad experiences of elections run by Israel."

The last voting in the territories was in municipal election in 1976, when candidates supporting the PLO were swept into offices. Many of the elected mayors later

were deposed. Two were targets of Jewish terrorists and were maimed in bomb attacks.

"One lesson is enough," Arafat said.

The Israeli Labour Party proposed an election to choose an alternative leadership that could negotiate for the Palestinians, but the Likud Party under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been cool to the idea.

Israel refuses to talk to the PLO and has dismissed Arafat's declaration last month renouncing terrorism and accepting Israel's right to exist as a public relations ploy.

Arafat stressed the 13-month Palestinian uprising would not stop until Israel evacuated the territories it captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Arafat denied that he threatened a prominent West Bank leader who suggested a truce in the uprising on condition that Israel release Palestinian leaders.

The suggestion came from Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem and one of the few elected

U.S. voices optimism on European arms talks

VIENNA (R) — The United States, hailing a new beginning for East-West concord in Europe, voiced optimism Tuesday that a new set of talks between the two power blocs could bring agreement on cutting conventional arms.

"The European continent, across its length and breadth, is much more open today than it was when we first assembled in Vienna in November 1986," Secretary of State George Shultz told foreign ministers and delegates from 35 countries at the European Security Conference (CSC).

The conference Sunday wrapped up 27 months of sometimes tough negotiations by approving a radically-new cooperation package.

At a news conference immediately after his speech Shultz said he had "some genuine optimism about the prospects for the new conventional arms talks." The negotiations, between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, begin in Vienna on March 9.

Shultz made his appearance at the conference — a follow-up to the Helsinki gathering of 1975 — just before he steps down Friday when the new administration of George Bush takes over in Washington.

Delegates from East and West say the painstaking negotiations have brought a new atmosphere of trust and understanding between most participants almost unthinkable when they began — although serious disagreements remain.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said that upholding human rights needed a change not just of style but of heart. "It is hardly progress for a cannibal to use a knife and fork," he said.

The Vienna document commits all 33 European participating countries, the United States and Canada to accept direct challenges on their human rights practices and bring their legislation into line with conference commitments.

But Romania, which diplomats

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Tuesday

reviews the Kingdom's youth programmes with Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat during a visit to the Ministry of Youth (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

King voices full support for youth programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday paid a visit to the Ministry of Youth and announced his full support for youth programmes initiated by the ministry.

Speaking in the presence of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat, the King said due attention and care should be given to the Jordanian youth to enable them to fulfil their aspirations and offer meaningful contributions to the development of their country.

King Hussein called on the Ministry of Youth to make a detailed study of the needs of the Jordanian youth and to create a healthy atmosphere for a dialogue with them with a view to serving their needs and those of

their communities in a spirit marked with responsibility and keenness to serve the national interest.

During the meeting, the King heard a briefing from the minister of youth about the ministry's programmes and its current process of monitoring the development of the Jordanian youth and their sports programmes in cooperation with other government ministries.

Khleifat said that the ministry's programmes aim at providing a chance to the youth to develop their skills and their capabilities.

The ministry has recently published a series of studies in the

form of booklets featuring aspects of the Great Arab Revolt and the Jordanian leaders services for the Arab causes in general, and the Palestine cause in particular, the minister said at the meeting.

Among the ministry's activities, he said, is a planned gathering of Jordanian youths now studying abroad. The young Jordanians will discuss issues pertaining to the development of their country and will tour different places of interest around the Kingdom, the minister added.

Khleifat said the Ministry of Youth has set up 33 youth and sports centres in different governorates, and has plans for youth festivals.

The minister said there is need for a higher youth council which would be entrusted with laying

(Continued on page 5)

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Fadlallah calls on Amal, Hizbollah to lay down arms

BEIRUT (R) — A top Shi'ite cleric Tuesday urged fighters to lay down their arms and talk peace after three weeks of fighting which has killed 140 people.

"I address to the warriors an Islamic and humanitarian appeal to stop fighting and sit together to find a way out of this conflict," Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizbollah (Party of God), told Reuters in an interview.

Fadlallah said talks were the only way to end the fighting between the Amal militia and Hizbollah.

"The devastating situation, the losses and public condemnation make dialogue necessary," said Fadlallah.

Hizbollah and Amal have been fighting for control of a strategic area in South Lebanon since Jan. 1. The battles have killed 140 people, wounded about 150 and displaced thousands of impoverished Shi'ites.

Fadlallah said: "I tell them (the fighters): sooner or later you will have to sit around a dialogue table. I urge you to shorten the suffering of people."

"The war cannot be a solution because no group, no matter how strong, can wipe (out) the other," he said.

In South Lebanon, Hizbollah and Amal were clinging to positions in and around the small hilltop town of Jubah in the Iqlim Al Tufah district where a four-day lull in the fighting continued Tuesday.

Iqlim Al Tufah, stretching from the southern port city of Sidon to Israel's self-declared "security zone," has been a laun-



Sheikh Hussein Fadlallah

ching ground for Hizbollah attacks against Israeli troops and their local allies.

Fadlallah said he was continuing his contacts with the vice president of the Higher Shi'ite Council, Sheikh Muhammad Mehdi Shamseddine, in a bid to end the bloodshed.

Shamseddine, who enjoys wide support among Amal, Monday met Hizbollah leaders for the second time in four days. He held talks with Fadlallah Saturday.

Fadlallah said there was a plot in Lebanon to weaken the Shi'ite community, although he did not say who he thought was behind it.

"The weakening of the Shi'ite community is intended since it is a political and revolutionary powder keg. There are aims to tame, contain and weaken the so-called moderates and extremist currents within it," he added.

Fadlallah offered "to sponsor, help and cooperate with the rival parties" in trying to find a solution to the conflict, which dates to 1984 when Hizbollah emerged as a challenge to Amal.

Fadlallah said Iran had asked Syria to launch an initiative to deal with the conflict.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Salim Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini held talks in Damascus Tuesday with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Security sources in the port of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, said the Lebanese Red Cross had taken four bodies of Hizbollah fighters from the Ra'i hospital to Beirut's southern suburbs.

Hizbollah said the four were unarmed villagers captured and tortured to death by Amal. It said Amal had imprisoned the four at the southern village of Zifta.

The Red Cross said it was awaiting word from the two rival factions on whether they would carry out a new evacuation of bodies from Jubah.

Amal and Hizbollah had agreed Sunday to let the Red Cross evacuate casualties from Jubah. Eleven bodies of Amal militiamen and nine Hizbollah were removed from the streets of the shattered town where all but 500 of the 6,000 residents have fled their homes.



Hizbollah clerics lead thousands of shouting zealots in a demonstration in the southern suburbs of west Beirut against their rival, the Amal militia

One killed in Gulf trawler blast

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — One fisherman was killed and five were injured in the Gulf Tuesday by an explosion which could have been caused by their boat hitting an mine, the Gulf News Agency (GNA) said.

The agency, quoting Bahrain Interior Ministry officials, named the dead man as the vessel's captain, Bahraini Yaqoob Ali Yaqoob.

The officials said a mine could have caused the blast but security sources told Reuters a faulty boiler might have been responsible.

The sources said the crew of a passing dhow rescued the injured men after spotting the stricken vessel at Fasht Al Khali, a reef 35 miles northeast of Bahrain.

The survivors, described as Asians, were taken to hospital after arriving back in Bahrain early in the afternoon. There were no further details.

Navy officials said a boiler accident, not a mine was probably responsible for an explosion that

sank a Saudi Arabian tanker in the southern Gulf Jan. 6.

Four Indian fishermen were hurt last December in the last reported Gulf mine explosion near the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the waterway.

During the same month, both Kuwait and Bahrain said they had found and detonated mines drifting near their coastlines.

Naval officials say despite extensive minesweeping by foreign navies, there are at least 200 mines left in the northern Gulf after the Iran-Iraq war.

A floating mine was believed responsible for an explosion Jan. 5 that triggered a fire aboard the Saudi Arabian tanker Sagheera as it sailed into the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Greek master and five other crew members of Greek and Sri Lankan nationality aboard the 36,904-tonne tanker died in the blast. The vessel later split in two and sank.

Afghan rebels to name government

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrilla parties will meet Feb. 1 to approve an interim government they say must rule Afghanistan until Soviet troops complete their withdrawal, according to a party leader.

Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar told a news conference there would be no role for President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party and probably none for the country's deposed king, Zahir Shah, exiled in Rome since a 1973 coup.

Hekmatyar, regarded by Western diplomats as one of the most radical of the rebel leaders, said he believed none of the guerrilla parties would name the ex-king as a delegate to the meeting.

Hekmatyar said no venue had yet been set for the meeting that was approved by the main seven-party guerrilla alliance based in neighbouring Pakistan, although a majority wanted to hold it in a rebel-held area inside Afghanistan.

The parties will each name 60 delegates to the assembly, although Hekmatyar said the representation for a smaller rebel alliance based in Iran had not yet been determined.

The Pakistan-based alliance announced last week it was breaking off talks with Moscow on a future broad-based government for Afghanistan until an estimated 50,000 remaining Soviet troops complete the scheduled Feb. 15 withdrawal and Moscow ends support for Najibullah.

The alliance has also rejected Najibullah's unilateral declaration of a ceasefire in the nine-year war from Jan. 1 and vowed to fight on until his government falls.

On Monday, the guerrillas killed five people and injured eight in rocket attacks on Kabul, shattering a peace of about three weeks in the Afghan capital, Kabul Radio said.

The alliance named an interim government last year with Ahmad Shah, a U.S.-educated engineer, as prime minister and Hekmatyar said it was possible the same team would be proposed.

Soviet officials have proposed the creation of a broad-based government that would include Najibullah's party and the former king as well as guerrilla leaders in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan.

Qadhafi to abolish all state institutions

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi says that all state institutions, including the "security apparatus" and the news agency JANA, will be abolished this year.

In a speech Monday night broadcast by Libyan television and monitored in London, Qadhafi said it was the people who should rule.

"All the institutions which are traditionally considered as state institutions are to be abolished," he said in an address to a basic people's congress, or grass-roots political committee, in the municipality of Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

These companies, these institutions and all these bodies seem to be literally imposed on you... they are going to be abolished from this year.

Qadhafi said that although the institutions had been set up by the people's congresses, people still considered them as "vertical and higher institutions which are outside their power and belonging to a government."

"The struggle for power must end," he said. "The demonstrations, the sit-ins and the protests are all protests (against) authority, a struggle for power."

Qadhafi said the action would be the cornerstone for a new world known as "the era of the masses."

"I am determined to set up a popular regime in the world whose basic foundation is Libya. A real popular regime and truly people's power," he said.

"However, all these establishments are going to be abolished and their employees will go home, but something must be arranged for them to enable them to earn a living not just telling them we have made you redundant and that is all," Qadhafi said.

Qadhafi said that among the institutions he intended to abolish were the Libyan news agency JANA and the "security apparatus."

In Monday's speech, he described JANA as "a huge octopus with hundreds of officials" that is "useless."

The Libyan leader said that he also will abolish organised sports, known as the "Jamahiri Sports" (sports of the masses).

Qadhafi said he also wanted to abolish agricultural produce marketing companies so that farmers would be free to market their own produce and he said he "insisted" on the abolition of car importing companies.

Qadhafi, who took power in a 1969 coup, has always described his ultimate political system as people running the country without parties, without parliaments, without a government.

Iran hangs 56 drug offenders in one day

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Fifty-six drug smugglers were executed Monday in the Iranian capital and 16 other cities in what the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) described as the "latest stage of the toughest crackdown on narcotics rings in Iran's history."

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted anti-narcotics officials as saying those hanged, including three Afghans and a Pakistani, had been caught with a total of 56,592 kilograms of various drugs.

The amount of narcotics discovered from the smugglers was only "a fraction of what these traders of death had distributed," the anti-narcotics headquarters said in a statement carried by IRNA.

The number of executions, which IRNA called the highest in a single day, was seen as a sign of the authorities' determination to strictly apply their "extensive and comprehensive" anti-narcotics campaign.

The nationwide crackdown against drugs was launched after

the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

The Iranian news agency Sunday quoted concerned officials as saying 17,594 drug smugglers had been arrested since March 1981, and more than 200 tons of narcotics seized over the period.

In addition to the drug charges, some of those executed Monday were also convicted of premeditated murder, illegal carrying of arms and ammunition, armed robberies and resisting arrest, hostage-taking, distributing alcohol and rape, IRNA reported.

The executions came days before a new narcotics law goes into effect Jan. 21, carrying the death penalty for anyone carrying at least 30 grammes of heroin, codeine, methadone or morphine and five kilograms of any narcotic.

IRNA also said spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had ordered 4,500 convicts in Khorasan province to be pardoned to mark next month's 10th anniversary of the Iranian revolution.

Iraq prepares constitution to allow political parties

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq will soon have a new constitution allowing the formation of new political parties, state-run television said Monday.

It said President Saddam Hussein presided over a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) and Baath Party regional leaders to discuss post-war political changes.

A new constitution, to be put to a referendum in the near future, would allow the formation of new political parties, although they would be expected to conform to the constitution's principles, it said.

Iraq's current constitution is a provisional charter issued in September 1968, two months after the Baath Party took power.

Hussein announced last November that following the Aug. 20 Gulf war ceasefire he planned to declare an amnesty for political prisoners and exiles and permit the formation of new parties.

Besides the Baath, Iraq has two Kurdish parties linked with Baath in a National Patriotic Front — the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Kurdish Revolutionary Party.

The television said "the

formation of new political parties is an important factor of the country's future political life."

Iraq has an estimated electorate of seven million. Everyone over 18 years old can vote.

Monday's meeting came as more than 800 Iraqis were expected to register as candidates for the third National Assembly elections scheduled for March, a government official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, told the AP that the deadline for applications expired Monday.

The elections for the 255-seat assembly, the Iraqi parliament formed in 1980, were originally

scheduled for Aug. 30.

But after Iran accepted the ceasefire that took effect Aug. 20, the Revolutionary Command Council postponed them until March 3 while the government was busy with peace talks.

The official said a list of the candidates will be announced soon and the election campaign will start three weeks before polling day.

Baghdad television said the RCC had found that "it is necessary to form new political parties in view of the developments over the last 20 years and especially after the war with Iran."

It said the RCC will meet

again to discuss further measures to be taken to discuss preparations for the March 3 elections.

In the last two assembly elections, which are held every four years, members of the Baath Party ran alongside independents. The last election for the assembly was in 1984.

Many independent candidates were elected to the assembly, which according to Iraq's constitution, shares legislative powers with the nine-member Revolutionary Command Council.

The council, which has veto powers, must ratify the assembly's draft legislation before it can become law.

PLO will keep hands stretched to Israel

LONDON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) observer at the United Nations said Monday his organisation believed in maintaining a conciliatory attitude towards Israel.

"The general approach by the PLO is to keep our hands stretched to the Israelis," said Zehdi Labib Terzi, U.N. representative of the independent Palestinian state declared by the PLO.

He spoke at a U.N.-sponsored panel discussion attended by journalists and a handful of Arab diplomats at which the Israeli viewpoint was represented by prominent Israeli journalist and writer David Shaham.

The two men did not address each other directly during the discussion, which was organised as part of the U.N. campaign to put the spotlight on the Palestinian question.

Terzi acknowledged that there were opponents within Israel of the PLO's peace drive, but said increasing numbers of people wanted to pursue the peace process although they had yet to become a political force.

Shaham stressed that his views were personal and he had not sought permission from his government to attend the discussion. He welcomed the PLO's recent renunciation of violence and recognition of Israel but said, in

reference to the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, that Palestinians needed to define what constituted an act of "terrorism" if progress towards peace was to be made.

He said Palestinians in the occupied territories should avoid attacks on civilian targets which could be seen as acts of "terrorism."

Terzi countered by saying that the uprising was an inevitable consequence of 20 years of repression by Israeli occupying forces and that the PLO could not be expected to control all acts by radical groups.

He put the number of Palestinian casualties in the 13-month uprising at 588 dead and 19,000 injured. Official estimates are lower.

Terzi said the uprising had "pricked the conscience of the world community," and he praised the European Economic Community for adopting what he said was a position independent of the United States.

Asked about the future of settlements in the West Bank, Shaham said the question should be part of peace negotiations. But it should be possible for the Israelis to live as citizens in a Palestinian state just as Palestinian Arabs live in Israel, he said.

Asked about hardline groups



Zehdi Labib Terzi

— including those outside the PLO — Terzi said: "You can't blame the Palestinian community or the Palestinian people for actions commissioned by other."

"I don't think anyone in fairness can blame the Palestinian leadership for these actions," he said.

"If you have a democratic organisation such as the PLO you have extremes of left and right. The PLO would not prevent anyone from speaking but it would stop subversion by force."

Terzi, who has represented the PLO at the U.N. since 1975, said the U.S. was his greatest "set-back" it had vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for the self-determination of the Palestinian people. And the highlight of his career? "Being there."

Reagan: Attack on Libya was no option

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan says he did not seriously consider bombing a Libyan factory which U.S. officials claim is designed to produce chemical weapons.

"We were not planning such an option," Reagan said in a Cable News Network (CNN) television interview broadcast Monday night.

Reagan roused speculation that U.S. planes might bomb the Libyan plant when he was asked in another television interview Dec. 22 whether such bombing was a possibility.

"That's a decision that has not been made yet," Reagan replied then. "We're in communication with our allies... we're watching very closely that situation."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters later that a U.S. military option against the plant at Rabta, south of the Libyan capital Tripoli, had not been ruled out and said Reagan's words remained the "relevant ones."

When Reagan was asked in the interview Monday why he had decided against destroying the Libyan plant, he said that had not been a planning option.

"No, I think Mr. (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi, because of an earlier option of ours in

another case, seemed to be shouting out around the world that we were going to do something of the kind," Reagan said. "And no, we had — we were not planning such an option."

Sanctions Reagan's comments Monday follow disclosure by a U.S. official that the American government is weighing whether to ease nearly three-year-old sanctions barring U.S. oil companies from doing business in Libya.

Since mid-1986, several U.S. oil companies have been barred from doing business directly in Libya, but they have kept their assets, including equipment, under an agreement in which Libya recognised the firms' 49 per cent share in the state-owned oil company.

That agreement froze the assets of five American companies.

Under that pact, Libya has extracted oil from the American oil fields, paying the costs of such operations while also reaping the profits.

But the agreement expires June 30 and some in the administration have voiced concern that if the U.S. government continues its ban on the U.S. firms doing business there, Libya might seize the assets.



Yasser Arafat

ADC invites Arafat to Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has accepted an invitation to address an Arab-American convention in Washington in April, convention organisers said Monday.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) called on the United States to grant Arafat an entry visa to facilitate the visit.

Secretary of State George Shultz in November denied a visa to Arafat to address the United Nations, saying Arafat "knows of, condones and lends support" to "terrorism."

But on Dec. 14, the United States agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO after determining Arafat had made a declaration that the PLO recognised Israel's right to exist, renounced terrorism and endorsed the pertinent U.N. Resolutions, 242 and 338.

The State Department had no immediate comment on whether Arafat would receive a visa this time.

The Anti-Discrimination Committee said Arafat Friday accepted the invitation to address the group's four-day convention.

The committee's president, Abdeen Jabara, said in a statement that he hoped the new administration "will demonstrate sensitivity to the Arab-American community, many of whom are of Palestinian descent, by facilitating such a visit."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Kanan
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:15 Programme on plants
17:25 Out of World
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Arab News Message
18:15 Local programme
19:00 Common mistakes
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
22:40 Wrestling
22:50 Various programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Champs-Elysees
19:00 News in French

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fajr
06:52 (Sunset) Dhuhr
11:46 Dhuhr
14:36 Asr
17:00 Maghrib
18:21 Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 625490
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661557
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
In the morning it will be clear and very cold. During the day it will be partly cloudy and a rise in temperature is expected. Wind will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam 894184
Dr. Bahjat Baal 649362
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Qutub 675480
Dr. Munther Al Qurcin 776258
Firas pharmacy 661912
Furud pharmacy 738336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626762

Min./max. temp

Amman 1 / 10
Aqaba 5 / 17
Djeris 1 / 10
Jordan Valley 3 / 18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 63 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam 894184
Dr. Bahjat Baal 649362
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Qutub 675480
Dr. Munther Al Qurcin 776258
Firas pharmacy 661912
Furud pharmacy 738336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626762

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 100
Rescue Police 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 622904/43
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 656700/91
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 608000
Price Complaints 661176

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 642304/6
Akhil Maternity, J. Ann 642411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 842562
Malhas, J. Amman 636140

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fdk per kg.
Apple 500 / 450

Barana 350 / 300
Barana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 350 / 300
Broad beans 750 / 650
Carrots 130 / 100
Cauliflower 220 / 170
Cucumbers 250 / 200
Dates 500 / 400
Eggs 300 / 250
Eggplant (large) 130 / 100
Eggplant (small) 180 / 120
Garlic 280 / 200
Grapefruit 160 / 120
Lemon 160 / 120
Marrow (large) 320 / 250
Marrow (small) 350 / 300
Orange (French) 350 / 300
Orange (Shammouti) 350 / 300
Orange (local) 240 / 200
Onion (dry) 240 / 200
Pepper (hot) 300 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 440 / 360
Potato 240 / 200
Spinach 250 / 200
Mandarin 120 / 100
Tomatoes 240 / 180

Amman celebrates Arbor Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality Tuesday celebrated Arbor Day under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, who planted three olive tree saplings in three new gardens within the Amman region on the occasion.

The Queen was joined by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and other officials in planting trees at the gardens, set up in Jabal Hussein, Tareq and Abu Nuseir districts.

Rawabdeh briefed the Queen on the facilities available at each park.

The Maysaloun Park in Jabal Hussein covers six dunums and is set amidst a district of over 141,000 residents.

The Hilal Park is situated in Tareq town on four dunums of land while the Abu Nuseir Park covers a five-dunum area.

The three gardens raise to 81 the number of public gardens within the Amman region.

Rawabdeh has said that 100,000 saplings had already been distributed to individuals and organisations to be planted during the Arbor Day ceremony of the current agricultural season.

In Salt, the agricultural department has started distributing saplings of fruit trees. It has announced that more than 58,000 saplings will be planted in the Salt area in the current agricultural season.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, president of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, attended an Arbor Day tree-planting celebration at the federation's headquarters. Prince Ra'd voiced appreciation for the contribution of the handicapped towards greening the country and called for supporting the federation to enable it to achieve its objectives.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opens a park in Amman as part of Jordan's Arbor Day celebrations (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday plants a sapling at an Amman park marking Arbor Day celebrations (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Financial gains, not 'security' behind Israel's occupation

By Salameh B. Ne'mati
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel's "security" considerations are not the primary reason for the Jewish state's refusal to withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, a U.S. economist said Monday.

He maintains that the real reason was that the occupied territories are "extremely profitable."

The West Bank and Gaza are not only Israel's second largest market after the United States, "they are (also) Israel's most profitable market," Professor Tom Stauffer told the Jordan Times.

"It is a captive market that brings in hard currency and which is extremely lucrative," said Stauffer, who teaches Middle East economics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

He asserts that the Israeli "security" argument is "nonsensical," and described claims that holding on to the occupied territories could achieve security as "an illusion."

He noted that it was very important to know how much weight should be given to the "security" argument. He pointed out that Israel's "security" could not be achieved separately from that of other countries in the region.

"Real security can only be the result of a genuine regional security," he said. "Anything else, is an illusion."

He lamented, however, that "given the political realities in Washington, it is very difficult for the U.S. to ask Israel to recognise this."

He argued that "we must ask which boundaries achieve security and whose security? What about Jordan's security and Lebanon's security?"

"Basically," he continued, "no boundary is secure if you have an organised enemy. This is particularly true given today's technology." He was apparently referring to long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads.

Stauffer, who has 35 years of involvement in the Middle East, believes that Israeli strategists

acknowledge his argument about security but refuse to admit to the fact for tactical purposes:

"Israeli strategists understand that (Israel's) security cannot be achieved by keeping hold of the occupied territories. ... They don't believe their own propaganda. Nobody believes it. But if somebody does, then this is good."

He said that the occupied territories are worth \$1 billion a year for Israel, in addition to water resources.

Commenting on the impact of the intifada and the future economic viability of holding the West Bank and Gaza, Stauffer said that with the intifada, "the cost is going up and the profits are going down."

He remarked that Israel's historical and religious identification with the occupied territories was another reason behind Israel's refusal to relinquish the area.

He described Israeli leaders such as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Ariel Sharon as "lunatics who are worse than Khomeini." He maintained that Israel was not under any substantial pressure from the outside to respond positively to Palestinian and Arab peace overtures. "They (the Israelis) will not do anything until they are driven to do it."

He said the United States was not ready to seriously pressure Israel and that European states were inhibited by Washington, which is in turn dominated by the pro-Israeli lobby.

On the other hand, he warned, the Palestinian uprising "is beginning to divide Israel, just like Vietnam divided us. The American Jews are upset. Tourism is severely affected. Regular Israeli troops are refusing to shoot Palestinians and the profit is being reduced."

"The intifada is deepening the splits between the left and the right which threatens a radicalisation of Israeli politics," Stauffer continued. "They could start a war to unite themselves. Otherwise, they would tear themselves to pieces. They need an incident (to start a war), but no one is making hostile noises."

NRA, Czech ministry sign cooperation agreement

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Czechoslovak ministry in charge of geological affairs Tuesday signed an agreement paving the way for cooperation in exploitation of minerals and phosphates and promoting scientific research. The two sides also agreed to launch cooperation in the process of restoring archaeological sites like the old city of Karan, which has sustained damage.

The agreement was signed by NRA Director Kamal Jreilat and the Czechoslovak minister responsible for geological affairs, Josef Pravda, at the conclusion of three days of talks between teams from both sides.

The agreement comes in the course of implementing a protocol concluded in 1987, according to an NRA spokesman.

He said that the Czechoslovak minister and a delegation accompanying him were taken on tours to Aqaba, Petra, the phosphate mines in Hassa, the Dead Sea and the Arab Potash Company plant.

Jordan to hold trade fair in Tunis

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will hold its fourth industrial fair in Tunis in May 1989 and \$2.5 million worth of products will be allowed to be sold directly to the public during the event, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf announced Tuesday.

A Tunisian trade fair will be held in Amman in April 1989 and Tunisian merchants will be able to sell directly to the Jordanian public products worth the same amount, Saqqaf said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following his talks with a Tunisian delegation which arrived in Amman Monday.

The Tunisian delegation, led by Kamal Balkabieh, discussed with Saqqaf and a Jordanian team of experts and official matters related to trade and economic cooperation. The two sides also reviewed the terms of bilateral protocol expected to be signed in April defining the quotas for Jordanian and Tunisian trade centres in Tunis and Amman.

Issues related to the Jordanian and Tunisian trade centres were reviewed earlier by the delegation at a meeting with the director of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation, Ghazi Diyab, and officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Last year, Tunisia held a 10-day trade fair at the Greater Amman Municipality building in downtown Amman, displaying food products, perfumes, clothes and handicrafts.

Jordan's last trade fair in Tunis, held last year, displayed products ranging from pharmaceuticals and kitchens to oriental souvenirs and leather.

Accord reached with Indonesia on joint flights

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has reached agreement with Indonesia to operate joint flights using Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft and the operations are expected to start in May 1989, according to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Mahmoud Balqaz.

Balqaz made the announcement here following his return from a three-country trip abroad where he discussed plans for expanding air transport operations of the national airline.

The tour took Balqaz to Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. He was accompanied by the CAA's air transport director and a senior official from Royal Jordanian.

Balqaz, who signed minutes of his talks with the Indonesian officials, said that both sides agreed on holding another meeting to conclude an agreement designed to organise air transport operations between Jordan and Indonesia.

The agreement, which will be finalised at another preparatory meeting, will open the way for flights between Amman and Manila, Balqaz added.

In Thailand, the Jordanian delegation and Thai officials reviewed means of expanding an existing air transport agreement covering flights between Amman and Bangkok.

A ministry spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said a retired army officer, Arselan Ramadan, had offered to clean a 100-kilometre stretch of road linking Sahab and Azraq, which is a national tourist centre, and that the ministry had given consent to the project and would ensure means to help implement it.

Arselan is the author of a book on Jordan's birds and another illustrated book on the Kingdom's archaeological sites and cultural heritage.

The Tourism Ministry spokesman said all organisations and associations would be backed by the ministry if they decide to undertake similar services as offered by Arselan to promote tourism.

The Sahab-Azraq road, the spokesman added, is strewn with old tyres and plastic materials and other waste marring the general scenery and roads leading to desert castles which attract tourists.

The spokesman said the collected tyres would be sent to the Jordan Valley to be burnt as a means of combating the effects of frost on agricultural crops.

Following are profiles of the three musicians:

Cağil Yücelen (violin)
Yücelen began her violin work at a very small age under her father Aksit Yücelen and entered the fourth term of Ankara State Conservatory after having completed her primary school education and studied there under the guidance of Belgian instructor Jules Higny. She was in the sixth year assigned to the class of "specially talented children," became for a year a student of Suna Kan, obtained in 1979 her graduation in just 6 years instead of 11 and received her degree at the chamber music department of Chigiana Music Academy in Siena of Italy. In October the same year, she was granted an Austrian state fellowship and joined the Vienna Music Academy which she finished cum laude in 1984 after a five-year study under Professor J. Sivo. She continues without interruption since her 16 years of age a concert programme with the Presidential, Istanbul and Izmir Symphony Orchestras. She performed in Albania and

Feza Gökmen (viola)
The artist finished with top honours in 1974 the Viola Department of Ankara State Conservatory as a student of J. Higny and B. Beseğmezler and joined the same year the Presidential Symphony Orchestra. She studied viola with E. Giuanna and chamber music with G. Mozzato at Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome

Gülşin Akagün Sarisözen (cello)
Admitted to Ankara State Conservatory in 1969 as Nusret Kayar's student, she graduated in 1978 with top honours the Cello Department and became the same year a member of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra and of the Chamber

Jordan-N. Yemeni committee opens meeting Saturday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee opens a meeting in Amman Saturday under the co-chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries.

North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani is due here by the end of the week for the three-day meeting which will discuss bilateral cooperation in cultural, economic, social and educational fields.

Both sides are expected to sign a protocol paving the way for greater measures of cooperation in these fields.

A joint preparatory committee opened meeting here Monday under the co-chairmanships of Ministry of Industry and Trade

Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf and Yahya Iriani from North Yemen's Foreign Ministry. The two teams are discussing trade and economic issues and other topics of mutual concern and will submit their findings to the higher committee meeting Saturday.

Saqqaf said that Jordan was keen on maintaining cooperation with North Yemen and was willing to provide it with teachers and doctors to help it pursue its development process.

Last August, a health delegation from North Yemen visited Jordan and selected 24 physicians and 12 specialists to work in North Yemeni hospitals and health centres. The health minister had visited Sanaa in July and said in a statement upon returning here that up to 300 Jordanian doctors could be recruited to work in North Yemen.

The higher committee last met in Sanaa in February 1988 and agreed on an annual trade volume of \$10 million and to encourage the exchange of goods and commodities. The North Yemenis had asked to be supplied with 500 Jordanian teachers to work in the country in the 1989-1990 school year.

Legal moves under way for RJ, PTC privatisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Legal procedures are under way to transform Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) into public share holding companies, according to a report in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday.

The Council of Ministers is expected soon to endorse the transformation and announce the abolition of the law that brought the airline and the PTC into being in their present form, according to the report.

It said that once the two institutions had been transformed into companies' new boards of directors would be appointed.

RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour said in December last month that he

expected the government to announce the privatisation of the national airline in early 1989. He said a number of Jordanian and Arab financial institutions had already expressed interest in acquiring shares in the new company.

Ghandour said the airline's auditors had prepared a full report on the airline's assets, and this would enable the airline board to define the capital and the price of the company's shares.

Work progresses at housing estate in Zarqa

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation is currently building a JD 4.6 million housing complex at Patrawi district of Zarqa through a local construction company which employs locally produced pre-cast materials.

Housing Corporation Director General Yousef Hiyasat Tuesday toured the site of the project.

He said the project entails constructing 84 buildings of 504 units each of 100, 102 and 126 square metres in area. The project will be provided with basic facilities like sewerage, electricity and water networks as well as a shopping centre. Three of the buildings have already been completed and are ready for occupancy, Hiyasat announced.

He said a total of 12 buildings should be completed by the end of 1989 in accordance with the terms of the agreement, which provides for the whole project to be completed by September 1991.

Hiyasat said the corporation plans to implement a housing project at Farkouh district in Irbid where 91 housing units will be set up. A tender for the project and another for 190 units to be built in Salt will be announced within a week, Hiyasat added.

The corporation announced last week that it had a number of housing units for sale to the public at its housing estates built at Maan, Tafleh, Sahab, Irbid, Jerash, Mafraq and Marka areas.



Housing Corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat and officials tour the site of a housing complex under construction in Zarqa (Petra photo)

No hikes in prices of medicine

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pharmaceutical industries and drug producers will not increase the prices of locally produced drugs in the next six months pending a review of raw material prices, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Health Tuesday.

The spokesman praised the "responsible and constructive position drug producers have adopted" and said "their stand reflects their sense of national belonging."

Health Minister Zubair Malhas said the ministry would not raise the prices of locally produced drugs.

Malhas also called on all drug producers not to raise the prices of their products and take public interests into consideration.

In an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i published Tuesday, Malhas said the ministry had requested the Saudi Health Ministry to fix the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar at the same level of October 1988 for purposes of purchasing Jordanian drugs. Malhas said Jordan exports locally produced drugs worth JD 14 million — 70 per cent of it to Saudi Arabia.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madamghah and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of caricatures by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ Theatrical portraits of a selection of literary writings entitled "Shades of Eve" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Dr. Musa Al Kilani on "Fundamentalism in Jordan" (in Arabic) at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
 Published 1975

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RAKAN AL MAJALI

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 Jordan Times Advertising Department.

What happened to positive neutrality?

IT IS most unfortunate that the Non-Aligned Movement foreign ministers' meeting in Cyprus last week voted down a proposal for a more active involvement by the movement in human rights issues. This proposal was based on one of the recommendations made by a preparatory committee for making the Non-Aligned Movement more effective.

One is at a loss to find an adequate explanation for turning down such a sound and relevant proposal. Within the human rights movement there are essentially two schools of thought: One Western oriented and the other Socialist. It is one thing for the Non-Aligned Movement to offer its own school of thought on the cause of human rights and it is quite another to shun the subject as if it is some kind of bogey not to be touched by a ten foot pole. Whatever happened to the notion of positive neutrality that the Non-Aligned Movement espoused and fought for in its hey days? Has the concept of positive neutrality deteriorated so much as to become negative neutrality? And whatever happened to the various international instruments and treaties on human rights which were articulated and adopted with the active participation of the very movement which now disavows any genuine interest in them? Are the forces which fought the proposal that the Non-Aligned Movement should likewise be seized with human rights endeavours so keen in conveying the distinct impression that human rights issues have no place in 59 countries? This is indeed a civilisational tragedy. To be sure, developing countries have their own distinct situations and a set of separate priorities to deal with, which have their peculiar implications for these countries. In other words, the deliberation of the subject of human rights cannot be complete without the participation of as much as 59 countries within the United Nations system. It is ironic that the very same delegations which prevented the inclusion of human rights issues on the agenda of the movement have also turned down on equally proper and timely proposal to have the movement take decisions henceforth by a majority vote rather than by consensus. Everybody knows that the adoption of resolutions by consensus within the movement has paralysed the movement for so long. The consensus principle is devoid of every semblance of common sense and is the antithesis of democratically adopted decisions.

All in all the day the movement rejected these two proposals was indeed a sad day for the whole movement and its constituencies. This is a major setback to the progressive development of the non-aligned phenomenon which will surely undermine its relevancy.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday described the Arab League's decision to form an Arab committee to look into the Lebanese crisis as a constructive and important step. The formation of the committee reflects a general consensus among the Arabs and the current favourable climate that prevails in the Arab World, the paper said. The paper said that though the committee will be confronted with an extremely difficult task to bring about a solution, yet the committee's determination and its serious and diligent work could lead to an end to hostilities among the warring groups which will open the door for a settlement. Besides, said the paper, the involvement of the Arab Nation in the process of finding a solution to Lebanon's chronic problems is bound to help end foreign interference in the country's internal affairs, and bring the heads of groups together as a first step towards a settlement. The paper said that Lebanon's problem which is in its 15th year now is not one for the Lebanese people alone, but it has close connection with the Arab and Islamic worlds; and therefore this connection calls for a collective solution coming from the Arab League and with the help of Arab leaders. The paper expressed hope that the committee will find cooperation on the part of the different parties in Lebanon, so that it can go ahead with its mission for peace.

The editor of Al Ra'i daily discusses the attitude of Iran with regard to the Gulf question, and says that the Iranian leaders are at a loss, and not able to take a positive step towards a permanent peace. The Tehran decision to accept a ceasefire at the battlefield was indeed a wise one, but the lack of a solution so far indicates clearly that the regime in Tehran has failed to come up with a constructive proposal that would restore its good neighbourly relations with the Arab countries, Rakan Al Majali notes. Iran, he adds, proved that it was unable to continue the war; but at the same time it is giving indications that it does not want to reach permanent peace. Perhaps the Iranian leaders, the writer continues, want to maintain the no-war, no-peace situation in the Gulf; a situation worse than the war itself. Nothing short of real peace, the writer concludes, can bring stability to the Gulf region; and Iran and Iraq have to be helped by the world's major nations to attain that goal.

Al Dstour daily discussed the current British policies towards the Middle East in the wake of PLO-British contacts in Tunis. The British stand, which favours a real and lasting peace ensuring the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland, can be rightly considered as a real change of policy on the part of Europe in general and Britain in particular, the paper noted. Britain and its Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are to be commended for the new policies which reflect the public thinking in the United Kingdom and the feelings of Britain's European allies, the paper added. It said that Britain's role in the region is vital, in view of its close ties with the United States which has influence on Israel's leaders and in view of London's close contacts with the Arab countries and Israel alike.

Sawt Al Shaab tackled the question of an Arab summit which it said is a must in view of the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and the need to reach a concerted Arab stand with regard to Israel's intransigence and to chart new plans in support of Iraq. The paper says such questions as Egypt's return to the Arab fold and strengthening the pan-Arab economic structure should also be dealt with at the summit. The summit is needed now, the paper added, to reassess the international situation following the start of the U.S.-PLO dialogue and to give impetus to all trends towards peace.

Pragmatism, openness expected in Bush presidency

By Gene Gibbons
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — On election eve last November, George Bush, confident he would at last win the presidency, remarked to a reporter who had covered much of his career: "Can you believe it — after all these years?"

Bush's climb to the peak of American power did defy long historical odds — the last incumbent U.S. vice president to be elected president was Martin van Buren in 1836 — and confounded critics who once thought him too "wimpy" to win.

The trim, 64-year-old Bush settled for being Ronald Reagan's running mate after his own early presidential run failed in 1980. But he carried 40 of the 50 states on November 8 after savaging Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis as a "card-carrying" liberal, soft on crime and defence.

Since the campaign, the man who was a consummate loyalist under Reagan and a slashing partisan in his own campaign has shown yet another, more conciliatory side. Friends say this one defines the kind of president he will be.

"The real Bush is emerging — a very decent person who is not afraid to seek advice from every quarter," said congressman Jim Leach, a liberal Iowa Republican and Bush associate.

In a break with the insiders-

only politics of the Reagan White House, Bush has tried to build good will for his administration by reaching out to political adversaries, minority groups and labour leaders since his election.

He has named cabinet members and advisers generally more moderate than Reagan's inner circle, and he has held more than a dozen news conferences — a quarter of the total Reagan held during all of his eight years in office.

Peter Roussel, a former Bush aide who is now a public relations executive, described his ex-boss as an "open-minded conservative" in terms of political philosophy.

"He has always picked people to work with him on the basis of their ability and he respects their views," Roussel said. "When a decision is moving forward, he likes to bring in folks who are knowledgeable and listens to them."

Others involved in the emerging Bush governing team say his open-door habit will change drastically the usual White House system where access to the president is tightly limited.

"I have no doubt there will be 15 or 20 people with direct access to Bush, not just one or two," said an official slated for a top White House job who asked not to be identified. "He has to have personal contact."

Bush himself concedes he not only faces awesome challenges

but political handicaps that will make it harder to meet those challenges.

Unlike Reagan, who had a Republican-controlled Senate to work with from 1981 to 1986, Bush saw his party lose seats to the Democratic majority in Congress even as he was elected.

This compels him to work with the Democrats to reach his goals, including his number one priority of getting huge U.S. budget deficits under control.

Those who know him say Bush will use his quarter century of experience in government to good effect in the Oval office.

Before serving as Reagan's vice president, he was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, envoy to China, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, congressman from Texas and national chairman of the Republican Party.

"His style of leadership will

starkly contrast with that of Reagan," said Leach, referring to the outgoing president's well-known detachment and inattention to policy detail.

Bush, a tall, athletic-looking man who jogs every day and relaxes by pitching horseshoes or going fishing, "has contacts in Congress, the federal bureaucracy and diplomatic circles and he'll be a very hands-on president," Leach said.

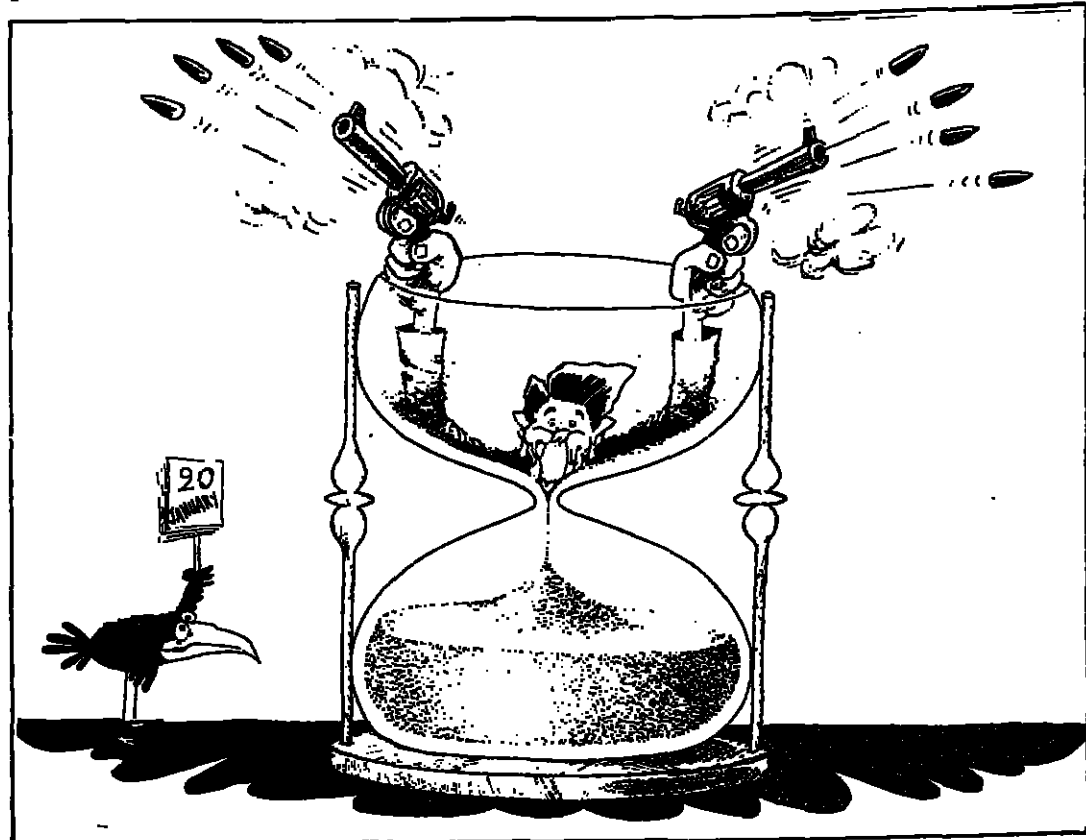
A senior aide to a liberal Democratic senator predicted Bush would enjoy "a real honeymoon" with Congress and added: "We respect somebody who talks business and understands the business he's talking about."

House speaker Jim Wright has returned Bush's friendly gestures, saying: "I am encouraged that he will exhibit appreciation for the constitutional responsibilities of Congress and seek avenues of cooperation."

However, there is widespread congressional scepticism, even among Republicans, that Bush will be able to address the deficit problem and keep his pledge not to raise taxes.

And there are who suspect that, despite the current euphoria, his honeymoon with Congress won't last long.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, whose wife Elizabeth will serve as Bush's labour secretary, said Democratic gains in the last congressional election "spell trouble right from day one for George Bush."



Gur: How long can Israel ignore PLO shift?

By Ian Black

TEL AVIV — Motta Gur has been asking awkward questions recently: has the PLO abandoned terrorism or hasn't it? His government insists it has not. The Labour Party minister and former chief of staff thinks it has. But the Israeli public, he says, has the right to know and to make up its own mind.

For a man who spent 30 of his 58 years in army uniform, Lieutenant General Gur has a firm grasp of politics and the compromises it requires. He believes that Yasser Arafat is sincere when he says he recognises Israel. Yet Gur has no qualms, unlike some of his more dovish party colleagues, about joining a new unity government — as a minister without portfolio — under the Likud's Yitzhak Shamir.

Behind this apparent paradox lies a position of considerable subtlety. "There is a very deep psycho-political problem for some Israelis to accept that the PLO intends, or is able, to halt terrorism," he says. "The whole thing is very emotional."

Gen Gur believes that the government will come up, sooner or later, against the reality of a changed PLO, despite its insistence so far that Arafat's declarations in Geneva last month were no more than a "monumental deception".

And when that happens, he argues, it will be easier to make an agreement — any agreement — with the Arabs, than it would have been if Labour had taken the very great risk of trying to form its own narrow government without the Likud. If the parties fall out, then Labour will go its own way.

His most awkward question

was first raised in the Knesset last week. Who was responsible for the spate of attempted incursions into Israel from south Lebanon over the previous few weeks, he asked his party's hawkish Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The answer took a few days, but when it came it was conclusive. Security officials reported that the mainstream PLO had halted preparations for carrying out hostile operations, and had carried out no raids from Lebanon since well before Arafat's Geneva speech. The infiltrators all belonged to anti-Arafat groups.

The former chief of staff knows all about the often difficult relationship between soldiers and politicians. "Without going into detail," he says, "there are now enough military and intelligence assessments that accept the fact that the PLO is changing."

Gen Gur believes that it would be fruitless for Israel — even discounting the diehard opposition of the Likud wing of the government — to engage in a direct dialogue with the PLO, since the differences between the two sides are simply far too great.

But he argues that the Americans, who formally began their "substantive dialogue" with the organisation before Christmas, can help bring them together. He also favours unofficial contacts — like this week's controversial encounter in Paris between four Israeli MPs and several PLO officials — meetings which are banned by a special anti-terrorist law.

General Mordechai Gur is an old soldier and he has spent his life fighting the Arabs. He commanded the paratroop brigade that occupied the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967 and he oversaw the rescue of Israeli hos-

tages at Entebbe airport in 1976. The same year, as chief of staff, he opposed holding the West Bank municipal elections that led to a sweeping victory for pro-PLO candidates. In 1978 he led Israel's first invasion of Lebanon in Operation Litani.

He is no softie today either. "I'm for a tough approach to the intifada and I supported the formation of the national unity government," he says. "I don't support the PLO. But I'm not stupid either."

Gen Gur's lack of stupidity has been noticed in his own party, still reeling from its fourth successive failure under Shimon Peres to achieve electoral victory. The pundits say he could be a serious candidate for the leadership when it next comes up in two years' time. He does not disagree.

His pragmatic approach to the PLO and his public insistence

that the truth be told about its apparent transformation have marked him out as a man of some stature at a time when the new government is drawing its wagons into the laager. He is a man to watch.

He won marks for principles in 1986 when he resigned as minister of health in the last national unity government because of the way Peres, then Prime Minister, was dealing with a scandal in the security service, Shin Bet. He has since started to work on building up his own support in the party.

"I believe that all sides must now make an effort to achieve progress," Gur says. "Time is running out. The intifada is bad for them and bad for us. The direction the PLO is going in is now quite clear. We can't expect them to continue without some reciprocity from us." — The Guardian

Washington: Monuments, embassies obscure plague of drugs, murder

By Ruth Sinai
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On a snowy January morning, two youths were buying drugs just a 10-minute walk from the White House.

There was nothing furtive about the deal in the shadow of the stately Spanish embassy building, just money handed over and two small packets given in return.

Across the street, next to the Polish embassy, a young woman signaled a cruising car to stop. She leaned into an open window, handed over some money and withdrew a gloved hand holding a small package.

The block off 16th street, one of Washington's major thoroughfares, is one of the estimated 90 open-air drug markets that flourish in the U.S. capital. Largely because of drugs, the District of Columbia, the formal name of the territory where Washington is located, last year achieved the dubious distinction of having the nation's highest murder rate.

Washington is a city of stark contrasts. Monumental government buildings, wide Parisian-style, gracious embassy grounds and glittering diplomatic receptions maintain a close and uneasy co-existence with gang shootouts, gutted buildings and potholed streets.

Barely a block from the White House, some of the city's 15,000 homeless huddle on heating grates. One recently froze to death. Across the street from the domed houses of Congress, a beggar jangles coins in a tin cup and asks passing legislative aides for money.

The American dream

"It's the American dream and the American nightmare all rolled into one," says B.J. Harris, a drug education counselor with the non-profit Sasha Bruce Youthworks.

Statistics provided by the Census Bureau highlight the disparity.

The District of Columbia, the name given by Congress in 1871 to the capital, has the nation's second highest per-capita income after the State of Connecticut:

\$20,303 annually, 32.3 per cent higher than the national average. Much of the high income figure comes from Washingtonians who hold well-paying government jobs. The city also boasts the nation's fourth-highest per-capita education level: 28 per cent of the population has completed 16 years or more of schooling.

At the same time, Washington's infant mortality rate is the highest in the country: 20.8 per 1,000 births, compared to the national average of 10.6, according to the Children's Defence Fund, a private group. The city also has the country's highest tuberculosis rate, 25.4 per 100,000, according to the government's Centres for Disease Control.

"This city has monoliths of marble attesting to a great civilisation, and yet some of its neighbourhoods are like the undeveloped Third World," Harris said.

Clear lines

Most of the 27 million tourists who come through Washington every year never see the seamy sides of the capital. The minority of 170,000 whites and the majority of 458,000 blacks and hispanics generally live in separate neighbourhoods. Most embassies are along exclusive Massachusetts Avenue, a predominantly white area that features expensive homes for diplomats, high-ranking government employees and wealthy Washingtonians.

"The lines of race and class are very distinct here," said Harris. Washington, situated at the edge of the old slave-owning south, became a mecca for blacks fleeing the segregationist policies in the first half of this century. With their rights protected by the federal government, the black population swelled to become the majority group in the capital.

Many of the people who work in D.C., whether for the federal government or other employers, live in suburbs across the Potomac River in the State of Virginia or the neighbouring State of Maryland.

Among them are many black professionals whose income has risen and who choose to migrate

away from the city's run-down housing and bad schools.

"This meant that many of the role models for black youths are no longer there," says Jim Fyfe, chairman of the Department of Justice, Law and Society at American University.

The city's youth, who are largely responsible for the sharp escalation in the crime rate, are victims of alienation and hopelessness, Fyfe and other experts said.

Drug children

Those feelings, compounded by a 35-per cent youth unemployment rate, have resulted in a sharp escalation of drug consumption and trafficking over the past year. Some of those picked up in police sweeps are as young as 12.

"They see the mansions, the fancy diplomats' cars, and they

know they can never have those things," said Greg Anderson, himself a former addict and pusher who now works as a researcher for a television programme called "City Under Siege."

The nightly 30-minute programme, produced with police help, focuses on attempts to stem the drug epidemic.

Drugs, particularly a recent invasion by dealers of crack, a potent form of cocaine, are responsible for Washington surpassing Detroit's murder rate in 1988. Last year saw 371 homicides — a rate of 49.42 per 100,000 inhabitants — compared with 48 in the former murder capital.

Police say drug-related murders account for 60 per cent of the killings, compared to 1986, when they accounted for only one-third.

Police officers say many of the killings are the result of turf wars

for the highly lucrative crack trade. Prices for crack — the highly addictive cocaine-based substance which looks like a rock and is smoked in a pipe — are much higher in Washington than elsewhere in the country, said Lt. Michael Raizilowish.

In such port cities as Miami and New York, where drugs are more plentiful, a small bag of crack can cost \$50. In Washington, the price can be up to \$100, Raizilowish said. Young dealers can easily make \$100 or 200 a day selling the drug.

Shameful

Police are outgunned and outnumbered. A highly touted attack on drug-infested neighbourhoods called Operation Clean Sweep has led to some 46,000 arrests over the past two years, but has done little more than clog the city's overcrowded

jails and court systems.

The epidemic has not spared D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, whose tremendous popularity has been eroded by two police investigations into his social ties with suspected drug dealers.

Mitch Snyder, an activist on behalf of the city's homeless, has mounted a campaign for Barry's recall in the wake of a scandal last month over the mayor's visits to the Washington hotel room of a Virgin Islands resident suspected of dealing drugs.

City officials say the drug plague can no longer be tolerated. "We must all make a personal commitment, because we all have stake in this war against drugs," wrote assistant police chief Isaac Fulwood in an impassioned Washington Post article.

And he added: "What happened to our city last year should make us all ashamed."

Turco-Greek row damages Davos spirit

By John Owen-Davies
 Reuter

ANKARA — A row between NATO members Turkey and Greece at East-West talks in Vienna has damaged their fragile political rapprochement aimed at ending decades of enmity, a Turkish foreign ministry source has said.

The dispute over a southern Turkish port was papered over after it threatened to delay the signing of a major arms reduction pact, but it is likely to remain an added source of friction between Ankara and Athens.

"The Davos spirit has suffered a very heavy blow but we hope it can be revived," the senior ministry source said.

The prime ministers of Turkey and Greece held historic talks at the Swiss resort of Davos a year ago but have since made scant progress on resolving major issues such as Cyprus and Aegean Sea rights which have dogged relations for three decades.

The Davos spirit is viewed widely on both sides of the Aegean as largely atmospheric and

in the sole hands of the two prime ministers, both of whom have political problems at home.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal went to Athens last June, but foreign ministry sources said there were no signs that Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu would pay a reciprocal visit to Ankara soon.

Ozal described the dispute at the 35-nation conference on security and cooperation in Europe as "unpleasant and not constructive."

It erupted when Greece said the port of Mersin, north of Cyprus, should be included in a zone, stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals, subject to conventional weapons cuts.

A Turkish foreign ministry source said Greece deliberately raised the issue at the Vienna talks in an attempt to internationalise the problem of divided Cyprus and focus world attention on it.

Mersin is a staging post for

Turkish troops supporting a breakaway Turkish-Cypriot republic in north Cyprus.

Turkey stood firm on its demand that the port should be left outside the Vienna-agreed cuts but agreed on Saturday to a compromise which left unclear whether it was included.

Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said the formula, following intensive diplomatic activity in Ankara and Vienna, was "a satisfactory result in the direction of Turkey's aims and interests."

The United States, Britain and West Germany played a major role in finding the compromise. NATO intervention also helped to bring Turkey and Greece back from the brink of war over Aegean Sea rights in March 1987.

"People were caught on the hop when the Vienna dispute blew up. The process of the East-West talks had been going on for many months," said an Ankara-based Western diplomat.

He added: "I think the Turks negotiated a good agreement for NATO and the West under which southeastern Turkey, including

the U.S. base facility at Incirlik, will be excluded from cuts, while Soviet units in the Caucasus will be included."

Southeastern Turkey, where Kurdish rebels have been fighting for the past four years for autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds, borders Iran, Iraq and Syria which are outside the Vienna talks.

Ozal, whose popularity has slumped mainly because of soaring inflation and his individual leadership style, told reporters last Thursday that Greece and Turkey were still discussing the issues.

"The (Aegean) territorial waters, information region are unresolved. The two countries have conflicting views on the problems," he said.

An opinion poll published on Thursday showed the popularity of Papandreu whose government has been rocked by scandals in the arms industry, had suffered a sharp drop.

Nkrumah's vision lives on in Africa

By Maggie James

LONDON — Africa's first post-colonial black ruler, Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah, was at one time idolised by his followers. After being overthrown from power, he was vilified for years. Now the wheel has turned a full circle: in Africa at large he is regarded with respect and in Ghana as a master of ideals and visions. A 1986 conference in London commemorated Nkrumah posthumously as a champion of national unity.

Biographer David Rooney, a specialist on Ghana, reveals the late African's complex personality and its implications for the rest of the developing world in his study *Kwame Nkrumah: The Political Kingdom in the Third World* published by I.B. Tauris. "The achievement of Ghana's independence in 1957," says Rooney, "gave hope to the leaders of independence movements all over Africa and inspiration to the civil rights leaders in the United States as illustrated by the enthusiastic reception Nkrumah received from black communities during his visits to America and by his correspondence with Martin Luther King until his assassination in 1968."

Ghana was the first British African colony to achieve independence, but Nkrumah's aims were for a united and self-sufficient Africa as the ultimate objective of all the independence struggles. To this aim he shaped a new philosophy — Nkrumaism or Scientific Socialism — relevant firstly to Ghana and secondly to Africa.

To counteract the power of Western industrial countries and their multinational companies, which he saw as the main threat to the economic prosperity of Third World countries moving towards independence, Nkrumah produced an ideology in which the government would take over the means of production and distribution, and profits would be used for industrial and social development.

Unfortunately, the government enterprises produced no profits and instead became a drain on Ghana's revenues. This resulted in the erosion of the cocoa industry, which, with Ghana as the world's largest producer, had brought the country relative prosperity.

Similarly, acknowledges Rooney, Nkrumah's zeal for African unity led him at every important stage in his career — at the creation of the Convention People's Party (CPP) in 1949, at Ghana's independence in 1957, and at the establishment of the Republic of Ghana in 1960 — to insist that Ghana would be ready to surrender its sovereignty in the interest of African unity. But his passionate pan-African quest failed because it alienated other African leaders who saw it, wrongly, in terms of Nkrumah's own personal ambition.

"When the history of 20th century Africa comes to be written," asserts Rooney, "Nkrumah will be seen as a man of vision whose achievements were undermined by the inadequacy of his administration."

"For the countries of Africa he tried to be both Marx and Lenin. He produced new ideology and tried to implement it — a task too big for any one man. His hopes of a united Africa contrast dramatically with his failure to curb corruption and to establish a stable regime in Ghana, and the

euphoria which greeted his overthrow in 1966."

Assessing Nkrumah's character, Rooney claims that he had the idealism, vision and the charisma to be a world-class statesman but he lacked the strength to overcome the bad counsel and corrupt practices of many doubtful characters who joined the CPP and who ultimately destroyed most of what he hoped to achieve.

He was strangely naïve in his indifference to financial matters and was therefore held responsible for the widespread corruption in the government, the CPP and its affiliates. This was despite the fact that as a world statesman he sought and received economic advice from the world's leading experts.

While he preached endlessly about the evils of neocolonialism and exploitation, he presided over one of the greatest swindlers' bonanzas the world has ever seen. Although his overall aim remained fairly constant, maintains Rooney, his views and attitudes often appear contradictory, paradoxical and almost schizophrenic.

Ghana has lurched between various military rulers since Nkrumah was ousted. Nine attempted coups were reported in the country between March 1982 and January 1985. The present military government, led by Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, has the difficult task of rebuilding the country after 20 years of decline, during which over two million inhabitants left the country and the economy has been completely run down. Rooney advocates that a valuable lesson can be learnt from Nkrumah's errors and he is confident that the name of Kwame Nkrumah will live in perpetuity. "Today most of Africa is ruled by military governments in one-party states, while the continent is condemned to poverty and famine by the debt system — a far cry from the idealistic goal of Nkrumah."

"He made serious mistakes, but in the future these will largely be forgotten. Africa will remember him as the leader who sought a united world effort to overcome Africa's poverty."

The idealism personified by Nkrumah has manifested itself frequently in Africa. Most recently in Burkina Faso. On Oct. 15, 1987, Thomas Sankara, the 37-year-old president of the West African country was assassinated in a counter-revolutionary military coup by troops loyal to Capt. Blaise Compaore. Twelve of Sankara's aides were also murdered. The revolutionary government established four years earlier on 4 August, 1983, was destroyed.

A new book, *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87* spans the period from March 1983 to October 1987. The book's purpose is to make Sankara's political legacy available in English for the first time. It is a contribution to all those in Africa and around the world who, inspired by Sankara's example, need to know the revolutionary course for which he fought and died. *Thomas Sankara Speaks* has been published by

Pathfinder Press. *Apartheid's Forgotten Children* is a new report by Oxfam, written by Caroline Moorehead, describing what life is like for children and young people in Namibia in 1988, where the apartheid system condemns the majority of black people to poverty and hardship.

For Namibian children, adult responsibilities come early. In their own words, children tell of their daily lives and their hope for a future where Namibians can live in freedom and equality, with a fair share in the wealth of potentially one of the richest countries in Africa.

Decolonisation is one of the great themes of our age. Does our knowledge of the political and economic history of the era now permit generalisation about the worldwide phenomenon of decolonisation and independence? *The Transfer of Power in Africa: Decolonisation 1940-1960*, published by Yale University Press, seeks to enlighten us on the subject.

The authors, Prosser Gifford and Wm. Roger Louis, deal with decolonisation in Africa from internal, metropolitan, and international perspectives. It explains how in some cases colonial policies led to the peaceful transfer of authority and in others the transfer was marked by violence and a clean-break with the colonial past.

First published in the early 1960s, the revised edition of *False Start in Africa*, published by E. J. Harsanyi, is a pathfinding analysis of modern African society. Writer René Dumont, a French agronomist, pinpointed the problems of newly independent Africa at that time.

Much of what Dumont railed against in 1962 he and others inside and outside Africa still rail against today. He has warned that European solutions are not the answer to black Africa's problems. But Dumont is better on the problems than the solutions. The causes than the cures. — *Academic File.*

KWAME NKURUMAH

The Political Kingdom in the Third World

David Rooney

I.B. Tauris & Co Ltd

Has Reagan defied the 'prophet's curse'?

By Georges Deschodt

WASHINGTON — When he completes his eight years in office on January 20, President Ronald Reagan will have defied the "prophet's curse," which has ruled the White House since William Harrison in 1841.

Since then, every U.S. president elected in a year ending with a zero has died in office.

The legend, despite protests by historians that it is without any historical foundation, is based on an alleged curse cast by the brother of the great Indian chief Tecumseh against William Harrison in 1813 after federal troops led by the president-to-be killed Tecumseh in a battle in Ontario, Canada.

Harrison, according to the curse, would not fulfil his mandate and the same would be true for all his successors elected every 20 years thereafter.

And that is what happened: every president elected or re-elected in 1840, 1860, 1880, 1900, 1920, 1940 and 1960 died in office.

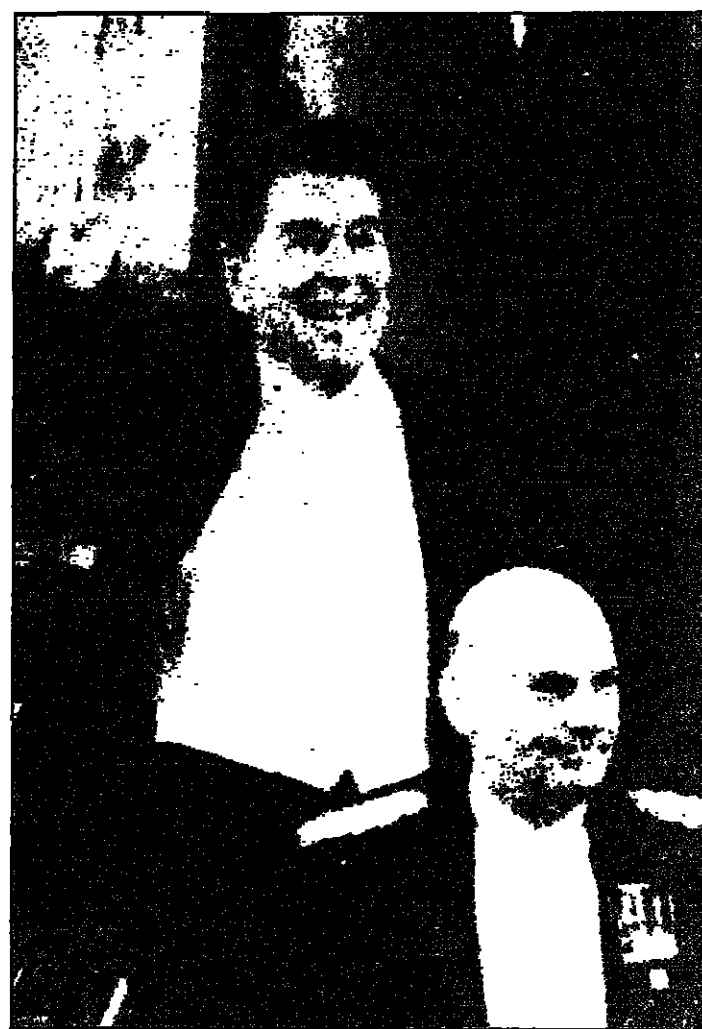
William Harrison was the quickest to fulfil this prophecy —

he caught a chill at his inauguration and his condition worsened rapidly until he died just one month later, on April 4, 1841.

Abraham Lincoln was felled by an assassin's bullet on April 15, 1865 — at the start of his second term of office; James Garfield was assassinated on September 19, 1881; William McKinley was assassinated on September 14, 1901; Warren Harding died August 2, 1923; Franklin Roosevelt lasted a bit longer even though he was re-elected in 1940 — he died on April 12, 1945 during his third term; and John Kennedy, the last in this tragic line, fell victim to an assassin's bullet on November 22, 1963.

Historians insist that this is simply a string of coincidences and that the legend developed from those coincidences. In reality, they say, nobody knows when or how the legend started.

Tecumseh, chief of the Shawnee nation, with the help of his brother "the prophet" Tenskwatawa, tried at the beginning of the 19th century to create a vast Indian confederation, stretching from Canada to Florida, to fight white settlers.



President Reagan and his personal physician Dr. John Hutton. Will the president survive until Friday?

(Continued from page 1)

Arafat rejects elections

(Continued from page 1)

in 1976 still in office. Freij withdrew the proposal after a broadcast on Monte Carlo Radio quoted Arafat as saying:

"Any Palestinian leader who proposes an end to the intifada exposes himself to the bullets of his own people and endangers his life. The PLO will know how to deal with him."

Asked about the broadcast by a reporter at a reception after the news conference, Arafat said the radio "misquoted me. I said if I tried to stop the intifada the small boy who is standing beside me would shoot me."

In the news conference, he accused Israel of using chemical weapons to suppress the uprising. "They don't use big bombs, but small bombs and chemical grenades against our people," he said.

The PLO chief made vague references to peace contacts under way, and said he "received a very important message" Monday night when he met a special envoy from Sweden in the Finnish capital.

Swedish diplomats mediated the contacts last month between the PLO and the U.S. government that led to Arafat's statement accepting Israel and the lifting of the 13-year ban on an official U.S.-PLO dialogue.

He refused to give details of the current efforts. "It is better not to speak about the details, but definitely I am waiting for a very strong effort from the Scandinavians," he said.

Arafat said 1989 was a critical year for the "PLO to push forward with all its efforts to achieve peace," saying that next year "the president of the United States will be busy with managing internal affairs and so on."

He said 94 countries have officially recognised the State of Palestine, which the Palestine National Council (PNC) declared

on Nov. 15. He said he expected that number to rise to 120 within a few weeks.

On his second day in Finland, Arafat met members of parliament and leaders of the political parties. He held talks Monday with President Mauno Koivisto, Prime Minister Harri Holkeri, and Foreign Minister Kalevi Sorsa.

Meanwhile in Tunis, PLO leaders discussed a provisional government last weekend but will not decide on timing or portfolios at least until next month, a PLO official said Tuesday.

Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO Information Department in Tunis, told Reuters the leaders were waiting for a special committee to submit proposals on the relationship between the Palestinian government and the PNC.

The committee was set up at a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee in Baghdad last month amid indications that the leaders intended to form a government fairly quickly.

Arafat told reporters last Friday that if and when an international conference were held on Middle East peace, the PLO or the provisional government should represent the Palestinians.

Hilal said the committee would not deal with political questions such as who would be in the government or how it would be divided between Palestinians from inside the occupied territories and those in exile.

Under guidelines laid down by the PNC last November, the government should include ministers from inside and outside and should reflect "national unity."

Hilal said the Unified Command running the intifada in the occupied territories would have a veto over who represented the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the cabinet.

King supports youth programmes

(Continued from page 1)

down general policies for the development of Jordanian youth. At the end of the visit the King signed the ministry's endeavours to serve the country's youth and expressed his delight over the visit during which he said he

acquainted himself with the ministry's programmes and future activities.

The King also voiced appreciation to the ministry's endeavours to serve the country's youth and expressed his absolute support for its programmes.

Jordan charts remedy

(Continued from page 1)

To implement the programme, the cabinet in November banned the importation of a range of durable goods and raised customs duties on various luxury items in an attempt to save \$200 million in hard currency next year. Other steps were taken to make Jordanian labour more competitive.

Economic difficulties are a staple of the eighties around the world and Jordan is no exception. If anything, it has done better than most countries of equivalent or even larger resources.

Jordan's recent economic policies have been endorsed by the President of the World Bank and by other lending agencies.

The present shortage in foreign exchange will be overcome. Jordan has a resilient and well-educated populace well placed to rise to the challenge ahead.

Once the immediate impact of the problem has receded, long-range prospects are far from discouraging.

U.S. voices optimism

(Continued from page 1)

from East and West generally agree maintains the most authoritarian system on the continent, signalled it would reserve the right to interpret the document in its own way.

Its Communist Party newspaper, *Scintilla*, referring to the conference, said that "any tendency to pose as 'judges' or 'instructors' teaching other people and making assessments of other countries' policies is absolutely inadmissible."

Diplomats said the accord on new conventional arms talks, agreed within the CSCE framework to overcome French objections to bloc-to-bloc negotiations, was one of the chief achievements of the Vienna deliberations.

"We recognise that there is going to be some long, hard bargaining. But the key thing is

that at long last we will be talking about this issue seriously, and with some commitment to achieving success," one Soviet official said.

Shultz told the news conference the conventional talks, to be known by the acronym CAFE, had much better prospects than their long-stalled MBFR predecessor negotiations, because they covered a wider area and would use different counting methods.

"We in NATO will approach this with a very interested and creative proposal," he said. He gave no details.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, whom Shultz praised for helping create the new climate in Europe, told the United Nations in New York in December that Moscow would withdraw 50,000 men and 5,000 tanks from Eastern Europe in 1989-90.

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Saudis abide by OPEC quota

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's oil output in the first two weeks of January averaged 4.35 million barrels per day (b/d), slightly down on its newly-assigned OPEC quota, oil industry sources in the Gulf said.

The kingdom's output from Jan. 9 to 15 was estimated at 5.1 million b/d, but the 3.6 million b/d output the previous week took average production below the quota level of 4.524 million b/d, they said.

"Saudi output is expected to average around quota level in the rest of the month," one oil industry executive said.

The rise in exports to 3.3 million b/d from the kingdom's Gulf terminals in the second week from 1.8 million a week ago led to the rise in output in the second week, sources said.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, Qatar's output so far in January was around 400,000 b/d, oil industry sources said. Its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota is 314,000 b/d.

They said the increase was caused partly by contractual problems and partly by the planned partial shutdown of offshore Qatari fields in March which will lower its output.

"Qatar will average around its quota level in the first three months of 1989," an oil industry executive said.

Oil industry sources said although no official output levels were released, there was a considerable decrease in Gulf output from December levels.

According to a Reuters survey for December, Saudi Arabia's output was estimated at 6.6 million b/d, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at 2.0 b/d million and Kuwait's at 1.7 million b/d.

Oil industry sources said the UAE output was expected to be around the 1.3 million b/d level in January, despite its 988,000 b/d quota.

Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer in the UAE, said Monday it would abide by OPEC deci-

sions. Oil industry sources said Abu Dhabi will alone produce around the UAE quota level.

However, the second biggest producer in the emirate, Dubai would continue to produce at around 400,000 b/d because it did not feel bound by OPEC agreements, the sources added.

They said Kuwait had reduced its output, but it was not immediately known whether it was within its new OPEC quota level of 1,037 million b/d.

Iran and Iraq, which have the same quota of 2,640 million b/d, are also expected to respect their limits, the sources added.

UAE papers endorse call for higher OPEC quota

Meanwhile, newspapers in the UAE Tuesday endorsed a call by Abu Dhabi's crown prince for OPEC to raise the UAE's oil output quota.

"For years it (UAE) has accepted a low production quota compared to its crude reserves and production capacity of four million b/d," the semi-official Al Itihad said.

The UAE has an estimated oil reserves of about 98 million barrels.

The UAE had sought a 1.5 million b/d output ceiling. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Khalifa bin Zaid Al Nahayan told visiting Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez Monday that the UAE hoped for a positive response to its demands for a "just" quota.

"OPEC states should now appreciate the UAE's position and take the initiative to achieve balance among the organisation's members and ensure stability," Al Wahda newspaper said.

New Venezuelan president supports UAE quota hike

Perez pledged his country's support Tuesday for the UAE demand for a higher oil production quota because of growing demand for oil.

He told a news conference before leaving for neighbouring Dubai that OPEC would be able to consider the UAE request because he believed that adherence to OPEC production and pricing regulations by the group's 13 members will lead to an increase in world demand.

OPEC "will be able to assign new quotas and that will be an opportunity to revise the UAE quota," he said.

Perez will later visit Iran and Iraq, both OPEC members, to seek to boost solidarity within the group to stabilise the oil market.

He will also seek support for his proposal for an OPEC summit conference to coincide with the organisation's 30th anniversary next year "to review norms and standards of the organisation." Sheikh Khalifa backed Venezuela's call for a summit.

Soviet Union to send observers to London talks

In Moscow, the Soviet Union said Tuesday it would send observers to forthcoming talks between OPEC and several oil producers from outside the group who are to discuss cooperation on curbing output so as to buoy prices.

The Soviet Union, the largest producer and a substantial exporter, has not participated in past talks arranged by the 13 OPEC nations in their effort to achieve a more broad-based management of the world oil market.

The announcement that Moscow would send observers to the Jan. 26 London talks was made during a visit by oil Minister Said bin Ahmad Al Shanfari of Oman, who met Soviet officials. Oman is not in OPEC but has close links with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab OPEC heavyweights.

"The Soviet side said the USSR intended to send its representatives to the London meeting as an observer," TASS news agency said. It gave no further details.

Eight non-OPEC countries have already agreed to send experts to meet six OPEC officials in London. Those talks are intended to prepare for a ministerial meeting between the two sides.

The leader of a visiting Kuwaiti delegation said Saturday after talks in Moscow that he believed the Soviet Union wanted to help keep up oil prices.

"We were happy with the affirmations from the Soviet side that they are determined to support the world oil market," Abdullah Al Roumi, executive assistant managing director for sales at the Kuwait Petroleum Corp., told a Kuwaiti newspaper.

Oil is believed to account for half or more of the Soviet Union's hard-currency income. Weak prices seem largely responsible for a virtual halving in its trade surplus reported last weekend.

Officials from Angola, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, North Yemen and Oman are to confer in London with others from OPEC members Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

A previous bid by OPEC for wider cooperation founded last April. Six non-members offered to cut exports by five per cent if OPEC could match their action.

OPEC, beset by internal squabbles, could not do so at that time.

While such big non-OPEC producers as Egypt and Mexico seem willing to cooperate and Norway is also restraining output, although it does not participate in the talks with OPEC, the United States and Britain are staying clear.

They say the free market must set oil prices.

Chase, Manufacturers report '88 profit

NEW YORK (AP) — Chase Manhattan Corp. and Manufacturers Hanover Corp., two of the nation's biggest bank holding companies, Monday reported huge gains in their fourth-quarter earnings and sizeable profits for all of 1988.

Both New York banking concerns noted an increase in net interest income, including past-due interest payments received from Brazil.

Chase, ranked second in the nation in terms of assets, said it earned \$275 million, or \$2.93 per share, for the three months ended Dec. 31. That was 79 per cent higher than net income of \$154 million, or \$1.66 a share, a year ago.

For the year, Chase earned \$1.06 billion, or \$11.55 a share, compared with an \$895 million loss in 1987.

Manufacturers, ranked

seventh, said its profit totalled \$224 million, or \$4.28 a share, in the final quarter of 1988, nearly 10 times higher than the \$23 million, or 18 cents a share, earned in 1987.

For the year, Manufacturers earned \$966 million, or \$18.55 a share, compared with a net loss of \$1.14 billion a year ago.

The latest results were in contrast to those in 1987 — the peak of Third World debt crisis — when most banking companies suffered huge losses or a decline in earnings after deciding to increase their provision for possible credit losses. That action followed Brazil's decision in early 1987 to stop paying interest on some of its bank loans.

Chase added \$750 million to its loan-loss provision in 1988, compared with \$2.15 billion for 1987. The company increased its fourth-quarter provision from a

year ago, to \$130 million from \$300 million.

Manufacturers' 1988 provision totalled \$502 million, vs. \$2.24 billion in 1987. The fourth-quarter provision dropped to \$113 million from \$138 million in 1987.

Chase said last year's fourth-quarter earnings were helped by increases in net interest income and investment banking fees. The earnings included \$217 million in past-due interest payments on medium- and long-term loans from Brazil. However, it said its earnings were reduced by about \$13 million after it placed on non-accrual status some medium- and long-term debt from Brazil.

When loans are classified as non-accruing, a bank records interest when it actually is received, rather than when it is due. Chase's fourth-quarter results also reflected a \$40 million after-tax restructuring charge resulting from its decision to withdraw from the equities business in Britain. The 1987 quarter included a \$39 million after-tax gain from the sale of real estate in Japan.

During the full year, Chase's earnings were favourably affected by trading account gains as well as increases in net interest income and foreign exchange trading income.

Last year Chase also earned, among other things, \$217 million in interest payments from Brazil; \$103 million from changes in its pension plan and \$69 million from the sale of its equity interest in Cain Chemical Inc.

Manufacturers' fourth-quarter earnings included \$146 million in past-due payments received from Brazil, as well as a \$250 million reduction in non-performing loans to Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil. The reduction totalled \$750 million for all of 1988.

Japanese car makers reveal figures

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automaker, Tuesday reported record highs for production and sales in Japan, last year, while No. 2 Nissan Motor Co. said overall production fell slightly and exports dropped by more than 11 per cent.

Toyota said its 1988 production totalled a record 4.24 million vehicles, up from the previous record of some four million in 1986.

Overseas production, which rose 27 per cent to 244,210 autos last year, will increase 8.2 per cent to 450,000 this year, due to increased output in the United States, Canada, the Philippines and Taiwan, it said.

Toyota's 1988 exports were 1.82 million vehicles, up 2.5 per cent, including 1.23 million passenger cars, up 3.3 per cent. But exports are expected to fall two

per cent this year to 1.78 million. Toyota's best year for exports was 1985, with 1.98 million vehicles.

Exports to the United States this year are expected to stay at their 1988 level of 859,000 because of last week's announcement that Japanese automakers will continue to limit exports to that country in efforts to reduce trade friction.

Toyota production in the United States totalled 74,072 vehicles in 1988 and is expected to be 170,000-200,000 cars this year.

Toyota's domestic sales in 1988 hit a record high of 2.12 million vehicles, giving it 31.5 per cent of the domestic market, based on vehicle registrations.

Nissan had a 17.3 per cent share while Mitsubishi Motors had 9.3 per cent, Honda Motor Co. 9.1 per cent and Mazda Motor Co. six per cent, registra-

tion statistics showed. Nissan reported total 1988 vehicle production of 2.71 million, down 0.1 per cent from 1987.

Domestic sales and overseas production grew, however, with domestic sales rising 13.5 per cent to 1.16 million. Overseas production was 549,016, up 11.9 per cent, and is expected to grow to a record high of 632,000 in 1989, up 15 per cent.

Nissan production in the United States fell 6.5 per cent to 206,000 autos in 1988, but is expected to grow 18.4 per cent to 244,000 this year.

But overall exports fell 11.2 per cent to 1.04 million, while exports to the United States plunged 36.5 per cent to 348,000.

Nissan did not reveal a target for exports to the United States this year, but said they were certain to rise with the introduc-

tion of several new models to the U.S. market this year.

Overall exports are expected to grow by three per cent this year, reaching 1.08 million vehicles.

Mazda produced 1.22 million cars, up 1.8 per cent, the firm also reported Tuesday. Mazda sold 408,000 cars in Japan, up 13 per cent, and exported 820,000 down 0.6 per cent. This year, Mazda expects to produce 1.22 million again, and increase domestic sales 10.3 per cent to 450,000 while exports are expected to drop a further 1.2 per cent to 810,000.

Honda said last week it would sell more than 900,000 cars in North America this year, including more than 800,000 in the United States. It will produce 360,000 cars at its facilities in the United States, down from 366,000 in 1988, but increase production in Canada from 50,000 to 80,000.

Brazilians support cutting debt repayments

BRASILIA (R) — Government, business and trade unions take differing views of Brazil's new plan to beat 1,000 per cent inflation but all agree on one thing — the country's huge debt payments have to be reduced.

More than \$14 billion left Brazil last year to service its \$115 billion debt, the Third World's biggest, and the government has served notice that it will not continue indefinitely paying out such large sums.

Finance Minister Malison Nobrega told a foreign press briefing Monday: "There has to be an understanding on the part of cre-

ditors that the continuation of a process in which Brazil is an exporter of capital is unbearable."

Nobrega is noted as one of Latin America's most moderate figures on the debt issue, but he told correspondents that Brazil could suspend interest payments if international reserves dipped to a critical level.

The minister said: "It is not an objective of the plan to suspend interest payments... this will happen only if the reserves of the country reach a critical level."

"Top secret" was his crisp reply when asked how the govern-

ment defines "critical level."

Brazilian newspapers say current reserves are about \$7 billion. Nobrega ended Brazil's interest moratorium on commercial debt. Talk from his lips of a possible new suspension is new.

He stressed that debt payments would only be suspended after negotiation with banks. His position found a positive echo among businessmen.

One leading businessman, Roberto Jecha, told Reuters that Brazil's private sector leaders were beginning to see a negotiated moratorium as a way out of recession. Brazil's economy grew

a party 0.04 per cent in 1988.

Jecha, on the board of the Sao Paulo Federation of Industries, said: "Supposing that the government, businessmen and workers do their share, what's left is the international problem — the debt. Aside from a new stand-by loan we need a new debt accord. No country can grow if it has a debt sucking four per cent of its domestic product each year."

In Sao Paulo Monday, the leaders of Brazil's two main unions voiced dissatisfaction with the new measures and said they were considering a general strike in protest.

Experts warn of L. American turbulences

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of experts on Western hemisphere affairs said Tuesday

that Latin America's \$420 billion debt could lead to military takeovers and recommended five actions to restore economic and political stability.

"Six years after the debt crisis began, Latin America remains mired in depression," said a report by the Inter-American Dialogue, a grouping of 66 prominent citizens from the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.

"Unemployment and under-employment are at record levels," it said. "Wages have declined sharply — by as much as 50 per cent in some places. Average income per capita has fallen back to the level of 1978 and is not recovering."

The report said the crisis could condemn Latin America "to a long period of economic hardship

and political turbulence."

"In some countries, civilian authorities may be forced to yield to military rule," thus reversing a strong trend over the past decade toward elected government, it said.

The report recommended that: — The nations of Latin America revamp development strategies, restructure their economies and effectively integrate them in the world economy.

— The United States address its own economic problems and join other industrial countries to reduce international financial imbalances, open world markets and sustain world growth.

— The international financial institutions sharply step up lending to Latin America, provided the debtor governments adhere to economic reform programmes.

— Debtor countries and commercial bank creditors reach debt reduction agreements.

— Debt reduction agreements should be actively encouraged by the United States and other industrial countries. Changes should be made in regulatory, accounting and tax practices so that debt reduction is an attractive option for the commercial banks. The industrialised countries must provide appropriate financial guarantees to support debt reduction initiatives.

Since 1985, U.S. policy has been guided by the so-called Baker plan, named for former treasury secretary and now secretary of state-designate James Baker.

The plan calls for increased lending by commercial banks to Latin America in return for economic restructuring.

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-woo said Tuesday South Korea aims for economic growth of eight per cent or more this year while trying to develop the country into "an advanced nation."

He said the government also wants to keep annual inflation within five per cent. Last year, the economy grew 12 per cent and prices rose more than seven per cent.

Outlining his government's major policies in a nationally televised new year news conference, Roh said economic growth must continue at similar rates in coming years to create 400,000 jobs a year.

He predicted that by early 1993, when his five-year term ends, South Korea's gross national product (GNP) with hit \$300 billion, with per capita GNP at \$7,000 a year, up from the present \$4,000. South Korea's GNP reached \$157 billion in 1988.

To ease trade frictions with other countries, notably the United States, Roh said Korea should trim its huge current account surplus by opening its market wider and removing non-tariff barriers.

Economic officials said the government plans to hold the surplus within \$9.5 billion this year. It hit a record \$14 billion last year.

Roh said South Korea now has a responsibility to take more market-opening measures because of its economic strength. He noted Korean exports reached a record \$60 billion last year.

But he said South Korea faced a problem of improving industrial competitiveness because wages were rising faster than in Japan and Taiwan, and because Korea's won currency continues to appreciate.

The won is expected to appreciate further this year following a nearly 16 per cent rise against the U.S. dollar last year.

The president called for cooperation between labour and management to increase productivity.

—

Kuwait to build new customs stations

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to build three major customs stations on its borders to stamp out smuggling and speed up the entry of trucks and cargo, customs director Ibrahim Al Ghanim said Tuesday. He told Reuters that all Kuwait-bound goods would have to be unloaded at the new stations at Abdali in the north, Nuwaisib in the south and Salmiyah in the west. Confirming a report in the daily Al Qabas, he said trucks would be allowed to enter Kuwait only for transit in accompanied convoys or if they carried flammable materials. Work is to begin this year on the stations. Ghanim said they would cost 30 million to 35 million dinars (\$105 million to \$120 million) and would include cold stores, livestock pens and special facilities for building materials and medicines.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SUPPLEMENT ADDENDUM NO. 1

- 1- Jordan Phosphate Mines Company announces the issuance of supplement for tender No. 1F/89 (supply of laboratory general apparatus and laboratory chemicals for Eshidiya Phosphate Mines). We request participants in the above mentioned tender to contact supplies chief bureau at general offices in Amman to obtain their copies of the said supplement.
- 2- The closing date of the above mentioned tender have been extended until 12 a.m. Wednesday February 22, 1989.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.4
U.S. dollar	486.0	Dutch guilder	233.0
Pound sterling	861.0	Swedish crown	77.1
Deutsche mark	263.1	Italian lira (for 100)	35.9
Swiss franc	308.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	125.4
French franc	77.2		126.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7705/15	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1975/85	Canadian dollar	
	1.8470/80	Deutsche marks	
	2.0845/55	Dutch guilders	
	1.5720/30	Swiss francs	
	38.65/68	Belgian francs	
	6.2950/3000	French francs	
	1354/1355	Italian lire	
	127.52/62	Japanese yen	
	6.2940/90	Swedish crowns	
	6.7040/50	Norwegian crowns	
	7.1500/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	401.75/402.25	U.S. dollars	

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Algerian cabinet approves \$16b plan

ALGERIA (R) — The Algerian cabinet has approved a multi-billion dollar development programme tabled in December after bloody October riots in protest against economic hardship. The official news agency APS said the 106 billion dinar (\$16 billion) crash investment plan was agreed at a Monday cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah. The move is designed to defuse discontent by creating jobs, building houses, raising wages and holding down inflation. The agency said the projects would be export-oriented or produce import substitutes in order to save foreign exchange. APS said French firms were expected to participate after agreement this month of a financial aid package with Paris for seven billion French francs (\$1.1 billion) credits.

Iraq sells more government factories

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government is putting more of its industrial projects on sale and is urging entrepreneurs to form companies to own and run these projects, according to a business paper. Al Itihad Weekly, mouthpiece of the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce said Monday the ministry of industry and military industrialisation has offered several of its medium-sized factories for sale to the public. These include a carpet factory in Diyala, Faluja and Kirkuk going for between 8 and 10 million dinars (\$24 and \$30 million).

OECD reports slower price increases

PARIS (AP) — The rate of increase of consumer prices in the Western industrialised nations slowed in November to a monthly rate of 0.2 per cent from 0.5 per cent in October, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported Tuesday. November's increase brought the annual rate of increase over the 12 months through November to 4.3 per cent, compared with 3.7 per cent over the 12 months ended in November 1987. The moderating influence on consumer prices in November with a fall of 0.5 per cent recorded following a 0.8 per cent drop in October.



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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Japanese soccer squad arrives in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Japan's national soccer team arrived in Tehran Tuesday to play Iran in an exhibition game Friday, the first international game staged there since the international football federation banned matches when the war against Iraq erupted in September 1980. The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the Japanese squad comprised 16 players with seven coaches and trainers. Japan and Iran played a goalless draw in the ninth Asian football games in Qatar last month.

Viv Richards returns

GLAMORGAN (AP) — Viv Richards, captain of the West Indies cricket team and one of the sport's biggest stars, is set to return to first-class county cricket in Britain. Officials of Glamorgan cricket club said Tuesday they had completed negotiations on a two-year contract with Richards, who played in the minor-county leagues last season after being dropped by Somerset.

Budd's managers say career is on hold

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Zola Budd will not try to resume international competition until British and world track-and-field officials clarify their stance toward her, the runner's management company said Monday. Budd, in recent interviews, has said she hopes to resume a controversially-placed career that was interrupted when she returned from Britain to her home in South Africa last May. At the time, she said she was exhausted and depressed by the campaign conducted against her by anti-apartheid activists since she took British citizenship in 1984 in order to circumvent the ban on South African participation in international track.

Aberdeen signs striker Van Der Ark

AMSTERDAM (R) — Striker Willem Van Der Ark is to join Scottish premier league Aberdeen from Dutch first division club Willem II Tilburg in a record deal, it was announced on Tuesday. Willem II coach Piet De Visser said Aberdeen would pay just over \$500,000 for the Dutchman, a record transfer for the Netherlands club. Van Der Ark, who was in Aberdeen Tuesday to complete the signing, has scored 13 league and cup goals this season. His contract would probably be for 2½ years. De Visser said, Willem II was already filled Van Der Ark's position by contracting Briton David Loggie for \$75.00 from second division Az Alkmaar, he added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TURN THOSE NOSTRUMS UPSIDE-DOWN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q J 10 3
♥ A K 5
♦ A 3
♣ J 5

EAST
♠ J 8 6 2
♥ 10 5
♦ Q 7
♣ J 10 9

SOUTH
♠ Q 9 7 4 3
♥ A 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ A 8 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
5 NT Pass 6 NT Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
You can't play bridge by rote. All those generalities you learn as a tyro serve only as guidelines in the play. On this hand you have to go contrary to two of those rubrics, depending on what line declarer adopts, if you want to be sure to defeat the contract.

Since South had showed minimum values, North was a trifle aggressive in the auction. His bid over game inquired about a club control. When South dutifully bid five no trump to confirm possession of the king, North opted for the no trump

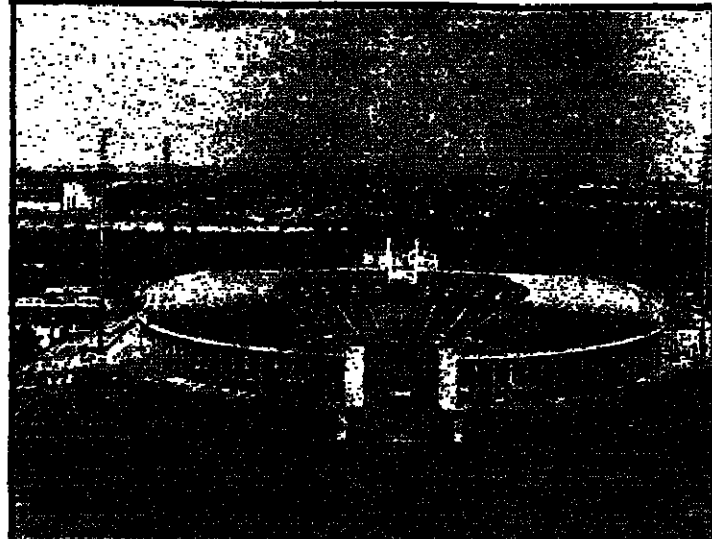
slam to protect his partner's monarch from immediate demise.

A low club lead would have given declarer no chance, but West was not clairvoyant. Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy and cashed the ace-king of spades. All he had to do to make his contract was to get to his hand so he could discard one of dummy's losers on his queen of spades, and the only suit to offer a means of transportation was clubs.

However, declarer was faced with a choice. He could play East for either the queen or ace of clubs. Since West might have led a club from the queen, he decided to play East for the lady and rely on a club finesse.

At trick four declarer led a low club. Now we know all about second-hand low, but if East had headed that saw, declarer's ten would force the ace and the king would be the entry to hand. But if East flies in with the queen, there is no entry and the contract fails.

Now let's assume that, instead, declarer leads the jack of clubs at trick four. If East "covers an honor with an honor," the defenders are dead. If he plays low, declarer again is frustrated from gaining entry to his hand when West does his part by withholding the ace.



Pan-Berlin Olympics 2000?

BERLIN (DaD) — Holding the Olympic Games in Berlin in the year 2000 is an idea that is steadily taking clearer shape. NOC chairman Willi Daume feels it would be wonderful if sport were to unite the divided city, and be it only for the duration of the Games. East Germany, of course, would need to pull its weight in the planning.

"The IOC has always been keen on humanitarian ideals," he said in a newspaper interview. "It is proud to this day of the all-German Olympic team that took part in the Games until 1968. Politics, which is always stronger and more robust than sport, then went its own way and the joint team was no longer possible."

In an irony of history, a second holding of the Olympic Games in Berlin might use the facilities, including the Olympic stadium (photo), built for the first games by the Nazi government in 1936. It was from this stadium that Hitler stormed out refusing to award black American sprinter Jesse Owens with the medals that had wrecked his demonstration of white supremacy.

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — The Charlotte Hornets proved a few things Monday.

The Hornets proved they could win on the road and they proved they could beat a quality team.

Kelly Tripucka scored 40 points, including nine in overtime, as Charlotte beat the Philadelphia 76ers 127-122 Monday to snap an 11-game road losing streak.

It was the Hornets' 10th victory of the season and the first

time they have beaten a team playing over .500 twice. On Dec. 1, the Hornets beat the 76ers 109-107 in Charlotte.

A basket by Chapman, who scored 25 points, gave the Hornets the lead at 120-118 with 1:21 left in overtime. Tripucka and Tyrone Bogue scored baskets to make it 124-118 with 50 seconds remaining.

In other National Basketball Association games Monday, New York defeated San Antonio 116-106.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sentimental feelings for others; help the needy; will fight many to act for the benefit of others. Tell others how good you feel about them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid getting caught in the middle of an argument that is not your concern. Good things start happening later in the day.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Although you start with a sensible plan for the day, revisions may be necessary. Your memory may not be up to snuff. Write things down.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may be ready for anything to do. Don't be too over-confident, yet be prepared for a pleasant surprise.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Together we may not feel comfortable today. Remember, the center stage is not always the main event. Try to follow.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Letting home chores slide now may come to haunt you later when you need free time. Get a second opinion on a legal matter.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) There are benefits staying with things that are tried and true. Study budget requirements and keep estimates within reason.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Someone who asks you for advice may have more on his mind than that. Use caution with this person, and just say no.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Speak clearly and be certain that your ideas are getting through to others. Consider some good advice given by a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make a decision now over one or two opportunities before they both slide away. Visit a used bookstore for some great material.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Excessive hard work may be more than you can endure. Rest up and seek the help of others. Use a conservative approach to work efforts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Protect financial drain with a revised budget. Credit binges have a way of catching up. Help a young family member.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Current employment discontent means to start looking for another position now before you burn out. Use this period to regroup your forces.

If your child is Born Today He or she will be receptive and loving. There is an attraction to metaphysics and the creative world of arts. Your child will be gracious and poetic, aspiring to reach high ideals. Your son or daughter will be intimate and personal with good social relations.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life largely up to you. © 1989, McNaught Synd.

THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Benshoof

ACROSS

- Young horse
- At variance
- Thick slice
- Off-the-cuff
- Innocent one
- Occurred
- Seam
- Vigoda and Burrows
- Ignored
- Mild oath
- London gallery
- Binge
- Vestibule
- Lumberjack
- Horatian and Pindaric
- Danube feeder
- Strive
- Deck
- Drowse
- Huzzah!
- Medium
- Opposite in character
- Move suddenly
- Furnished
- Wing
- Appar
- Fast pas
- Acapulco dwelling
- au rum
- Prove
- insufficient
- Biblical brother
- Mild oath
- Flavor
- Dangle
- Milan moola
- Tex. mission
- Angars
- Diving bird
- Vapid

DOWN

- Tooth
- Redolence
- Century plant
- Moon
- Bahamian island
- Fluffed item
- Aid
- Stopped
- City near Phoenix
- Truman's birthplace
- Peaceful harmony
- noir (pugbear)
- Mis. Midler
- Style
- Miss or bear
- Speech defect
- Eur. capital
- Highlander
- Mont. city
- Margarine
- Exuding moisture
- UN sp.
- Gas. river
- Cotter
- Observe carefully
- Univ. instructor
- Pilgrim John
- Move briskly
- Plight
- Happened
- It. marble city
- Zee Zee
- White poplar
- Wild as people
- Univ.
- Romantic tale
- premium
- Mole
- Hyacinth
- City of

Australian Open first round

Becker, Lendl win and challenge

MELBOURNE (R) — Masters champion Boris Becker laid claim to the world number one crown held by Mats Wilander after disposing of New Zealand's Steve Guy in the first round of the Australian Open tennis championships Tuesday.

Third seed Boris Becker dropped a set in a scrappy 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory which followed a far more impressive display of power hitting from Ivan Lendl in his straight-sets defeat of West Germany's Alexander Mironz.

Lendl, seeded two, believes winning the Australian Open for the first time will help him reclaim the number one spot taken from him by Wilander.

But John McEnroe, the game's top men's player before being dethroned by Lendl, declared that at 29 he could do without the pressures of being regarded as the best player in the world.

"I didn't do a great job of enjoying it, it was such a fleeting moment. I was at the top for four years yet I felt the pressure rather than feeling amazed, so happy at being in that position," said McEnroe after defeating Michael Westphal of West Germany in his first appearance at the Open since December 1985.

Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg, like fellow-Swede Wilander Monday, had problems finding his form before finally ousting American Roger Smith 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Becker suffered a glut of unforced errors especially on the forehand, faults he blamed on lack of concentration in a match on court two which finished at dusk.

Play on the outside courts was delayed for three hours by rain which caused organizers to close the roof of the centre court for the second day running.

"I won the first set quite easily and I think I let up a bit," said Becker. "It was my first game for four weeks and I expected to be more nervous than I was but overall I won it pretty easily."

"Mats deserved to be number one last year but in the last three or four months of 1988 I was

playing pretty good tennis. The competition is open but I consider myself as one of the guys who has the chance to be number one this year."

A relaxed Lendl, his troublesome right shoulder now fully healed, was in tremendous form, his racket hardly striking a wrong note in a 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 win.

The U.S.-based Czechoslovak said a 2½ month break from tennis towards the end of last year had helped him recharge his batteries.

"I'm much fresher now and I have a healthy shoulder. I strengthened my shoulder and arm muscles before and after surgery in August and I'm now hitting the ball harder than ever."

Lendl said he believed Wilander, notorious for starting slowly in big tournaments, was playing a dangerous game.

"Mats is different to me and other players, he seems able to play badly for the first few rounds and always pull through."

"Last year he had a great year... but I have a theory that sooner or later it'll catch up with you and you don't get out of them any more."

Pat Cash, a top five player after he won Wimbledon in 1987, continued his recovery from six months out injured by trouncing fellow-Australian Brett Custer 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

Now ranked 19 in the world, Cash, who has recovered from hurting his racket arm late last week, said he felt he was performing like someone ranked in the top five.

"I regard myself as one of the best players in the world and I feel like I'm playing like one too."

"As long as I keep improving I'll soon be back — it's just a matter of time. It's taken John McEnroe a couple of years to get back and he was only out a couple of months longer than me," Cash said later.

Two players at the opposite ends of the age scale in women's tennis, Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova, could not have been more impressive in their first-round matches, both winning 6-0, 6-1.

The teenage Argentine, who beat Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden, Wednesday plays Conchita Martinez of Spain, a 16-year-old many consider the next Steffi Graf.

Nebiolo may face prosecution

ROME (AP) — Primo Nebiolo, the former president of the Italian track federation (FIDAL) and his closest aide, Luciano Barra, Tuesday were given formal notice that they are under investigation in connection with alleged irregularities in the management of Italy's athletic governing body.

Antonio Vinci, the Rome magistrate who issued the notices, is investigating allegations that FIDAL resorted to manipulations and abuses in negotiating contracts with commercial sponsors and with private companies entrusted with the construction of tracks and other facilities.

A spokesman for FIDAL confirmed that the notices were handed to Nebiolo and Barra, a former general secretary of FIDAL.

Court sources in Rome said the two track officials may face charges of falsifying public documents and using their positions for private advantage.

Nebiolo, 64, who heads the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) — the governing body of world's athletics — resigned his post at FIDAL Jan. 7, ending a 20-year presidency, in the wake of a streak of scandals involving officials of the Italian federation.

Nebiolo claimed in recent interviews that he was the victim of political feuds. He's a known rival of Arrigo Gattai, the chairman of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) which prompted investigations into FIDAL's wrongdoings.

Sabatini warns Graf

MELBOURNE (R) — Gabriela Sabatini issued an early warning to women's tennis world number one Steffi Graf Tuesday — watch me in 1989.

After racing to a 6-0 first round win against outclassed Swede Cecilia Dahlman, the 19-year-old Argentine announced her intention to topple her West German rival from the top spot, starting at this week's Australian Open.

"I think this could be a very good year for me," said Sabatini at the first Grand Slam tournament of 1989. "I think I have a good chance of taking over from Steffi."

"I just have to work a little more mentally and physically but I'm playing well, feeling very good and I feel I can get to the top."

Sabatini, the number three seed who inflicted two of Graf's three defeats last year, certainly won plenty of new admirers among the centre court crowd during her first match on Australian soil.

Moving smoothly throughout, she wrapped up the first set in 23 minutes without conceding a game and was almost as efficient in the second.

"I'm feeling good and I'm looking forward to my next match," he said.

Assuming she suffers no mishaps en route, Sabatini is scheduled for a semi-final shoot-out with Graf, a repeat of the U.S. Open and Olympic finals last year. Graf won both encounters.

Dial-a-drug services haunt Super Bowl

MIAMI (R) — Miami police are on the lookout for drug dealers operating like delivery services during Super Bowl week preceding the American football championship game, taking phone orders and supplying cocaine and marijuana to out-of-town football fans in their hotel rooms.

Metro-Dade county police major Don Matthews, coordinator of Super Bowl security, said detectives recently put out word around the United States asking for intelligence on any criminal activities that might affect the championship game in Miami on Jan. 22.

"We've received information that the possibility exists that some narcotics groups, drug metagroups, would come into town

Mandatory lifetime ban suggested for S. Africa links

LONDON (AP) — A mandatory lifetime ban from international cricket for any player with future "sporting links" with South Africa will be among four plans considered by the sport's leaders at a major conference next week.

None of the proposals before the international cricket conference at its Jan. 23-24 meeting would impose a retroactive penalty on players who have competed or coached in South Africa in the past.

As they released the agenda for the session at Lord's Monday, English cricket officials said they were certain some action to cut the sport's formal links with South Africa would be taken although they hoped the anti-apartheid action would stop short of the lifetime ban proposed by the West Indies.

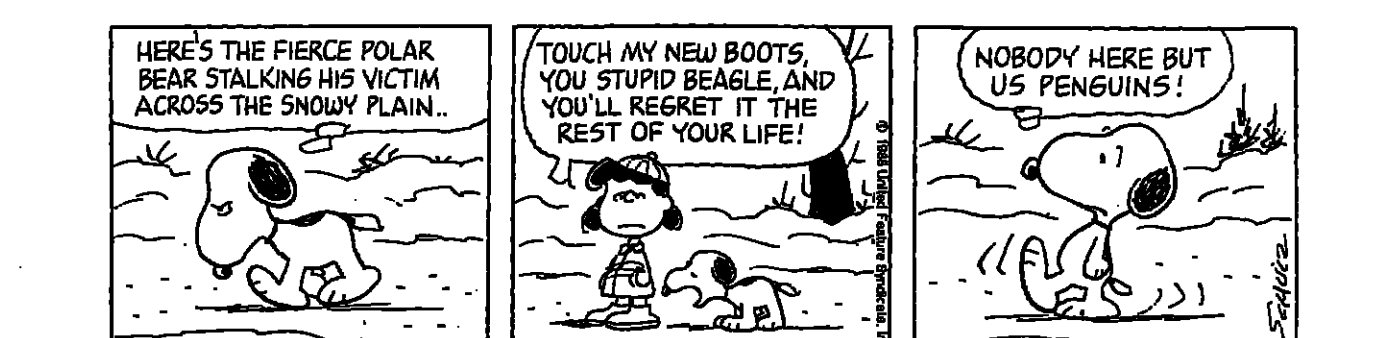
"I'm optimistic in as much as there's a great will to get the problem of South Africa sorted out once and for all in the interests of international cricket," said Col. John Stephenson, secretary of both the international conference and the host Marylebone Cricket Club.

"If we let this matter drift on, we will become a laughing stock," he added.

England allows its county cricketers to play and coach in South Africa while retaining eligibility for international tours. Graham Gooch, the England captain, is among the players who have such South African links.

This policy has led to conflict with other cricket nations who take a harder stand than Britain.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LINAF

DRYBE

UNNACE

RUHLOY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumble: HOARD SKULL UPTOWN FLORID

Answer: How the manicurist rejected his proposal of marriage—OUT OF HAND

Signals blamed for Bangladesh rail crash

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The government has opened an investigation to determine whether operators using a sophisticated signalling system installed a week ago gave the wrong signal or no signal at all.

"I suddenly saw another train coming from the opposite direction on the same track," said Mohammad Abdur Rashid, driver of the mail train, from his hospital bed.

He said the signal at the railway station was not working but he received written clearance from the station master to proceed.

"I blew the emergency horn several times to draw the attention of the driver of the other train," he said.

The driver of the express train also said he had clearance and continued to drive at normal speed, about 80 kilometres an hour.

Mostafa Ahmed said he left the railway station after he was given a yellow signal, which meant that the track ahead was clear.

The investigative commission has seized documents from the two railway stations and has begun interviewing witnesses and railway officials in an effort to determine the cause.

The government called a day of mourning Monday, ordering all flags fly at half-staff. Thousands of people streamed into mosques and temples to offer prayers for the living and the dead.

It also offered 100,000 taka (about \$3,125) as compensation to relatives of the dead and 80,000 taka (\$2,560) to each of the injured. The average per capita income in Bangladesh is \$190.

The government appointed a commission headed by Supreme Court Justice Latifur Rahman to investigate the collision and ordered its findings be ready within two weeks. Rahman went to the area Tuesday.



A mother in shock after her son was killed in Bangladesh's worst train disaster Sunday

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Polish party wrangles over trade union

WARSAW (R) — Poland's communist leaders, saying the country faced renewed unrest, fought with hardliners Tuesday for party permission to restore the Solidarity union they suppressed in 1981.

An unprecedented public battle raged in the Central Committee after the Politburo asked it at a special two-day session to endorse plans to restore limited trade union freedoms and make a deal with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa.

The struggle within the 230-member policy-making body followed months of division and hesitation in the party over proposals to reverse a seven-year ban on Solidarity, the communist world's first independent union.

Communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski and Politburo supporters warned the Central Committee that a deal with Solidarity was essential to avert a national crisis. Only a handful of committee members appeared to agree.

According to official media, only four of the first 19 speakers from the floor Monday and Tuesday clearly backed the proposal to change the party line on trade union freedoms contained in a Politburo position paper.

Several speakers said they feared that restoring Solidarity could cause anarchy in Polish factories and revive the challenge to communist rule launched by the trade union during its 16-months of legality in 1980-81.

"We do not need other unions to carry out reforms. More unions will not give us more bread," said Eugeniusz Kawalec, a Central Committee member from southern Poland.

"Our society doesn't want any Solidarity. It passed through that trial in 1981," said Jan Turzynski, a party chief from a south-western copper mining area.

The Politburo is proposing a deal with Solidarity as the key to forging an unprecedented alliance with the moderate opposition to overcome popular distrust and win backing for badly-needed economic reforms.

The Central Committee was due to vote later Tuesday on the Politburo position paper and on a draft resolution on reforms designed to improve the party's image.

Zygmunt Czarzasty, a powerful liberal in the Central Committee secretariat, presented the Politburo paper. He said the decision to opt for union pluralism was not a political gesture to the opposition but a social necessity.

"Social agreement must be reached in the interests of social peace," Czarzasty declared.

"Solidarity has refused since last August to accept official invitations to enter talks on Poland's future until authorities agree to consider its legalisation.

"On the one hand we've had two messages saying 'We're going to cut him into bits'. On the other hand we've got a message saying 'We want money'."

Van den Boeynants, who made a fortune from meat and property before entering politics, vanished after parking his car in a basement garage at his home.

The Socialist Revolutionary Brigades, previously unknown to Belgian anti-terrorist forces, claimed within hours of his disappearance that they had abducted him.

Police combed woods near the southwest city of Mons Monday after an anonymous phone caller said van den Boeynants' body was there but the call turned out to have been a hoax.

Another police spokesman said Tuesday that an empty syringe had been discovered in a cupboard in van den Boeynants' garage near where one of his shoes, his pipe and hearing aid had also been found. But he would not comment on press reports that it had been used to forcibly drug van den Boeynants.

On Monday night the newspaper and the police crisis centre set up to coordinate the hunt for the politician dubbed "the old crocodile" received anonymous calls from the same group saying: "You will next see VDB (van den Boeynants) in little pieces."

"There is a total contradiction between the two messages," van Doren said.

The ransom demand, on a single typewritten sheet, said van den Boeynants represented "conservative capitalism."

The 69-year-old former prime minister disappeared from his Brussels home Saturday. Police said they were certain he had been kidnapped and were taking seriously death threats against him.

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COLUMN

Will the crows come back?

MILTON, Pennsylvania (AP) — This normally quiet central Pennsylvania community of about 7,700 has issued a rather loud eviction notice to unwanted crows. After five days of trying to shoo the birds with loud noise, officials said the number of crow sightings in town markedly decreased. About 35,000 crows were estimated to be in the area as a propane gas-fired cannon was being set up to scare them. The birds soon flew away. Police concluded the effort against the birds by firing off several noise-makers to chase the few crows that had returned. It remains to be seen whether the crows will return.

Boar accepts cash, checks

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — A bronze statue of a wild boar at Kansas City International Airport has been fed feds, quarters and an occasional dollar bill from passersby. But recently it reaped a real windfall. A couple from Minnesota made out checks for \$500 and \$250 and slipped them into a slot at the base of the boar. "I think it's a worthy cause," said Clarence J. Haugh. Contributions given to the boar — and to another boar at Kansas City's Country Club Plaza — are turned over to Children's Mercy Hospital. Miller Nichols, former chairman of the company that developed the Country Club Plaza, said he noticed one of the boar statues in a store window while strolling along a riverbank in Florence, Italy, in the late 1940s. He said the owner told him that the original wild boar statue was in the straw market of Florence and that gifts made to the casting went to a children's orphanage. And so an idea was born.

Bush to be role model for fat women

NEW YORK (R) — Barbara Bush says that as first lady she's going to be a role model for many a woman who felt disenfranchised by the stylish and slim Nancy Reagan. "My mail tells me a lot of fat, white-haired, wrinkled ladies are tickled pink," Bush, who becomes first lady Jan. 20 when her husband George is inaugurated president, said in remarks published Sunday. "I think it makes them feel better about themselves," said the 63-year-old Bush, who has never shied from joking about her own matronly appearance and snow-white hair. "I mean, look at me." In her stay at the White House Nancy Reagan made a point of wearing expensive outfits by U.S. designers, a passion applauded by the U.S. fashion industry but which often occasionally drew criticism of her as elitist. Bush, in contrast, said in the interview last week with a group of reporters that she cares little for expensive outfits but was "in heaven" that there are three washers and driers at the White House, her residence as of next Friday.

Bond's heroines risk U.N. censure

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Actresses Britt Ekland and Ursula Andress, two heroines of James Bond films, ran the risk of U.N. censure when they arrived in Johannesburg to promote reruns of the movies on local cable network. The actresses said they had no plans to perform during their four-day visit, but still risk being placed on a United Nations blacklist of performers who appear in South Africa. The U.N. maintains the list to focus attention on South Africa's apartheid policies of racial segregation. "I know a lot of people who have come here to perform. been paid a lot of money and then apologise about it later," Ekland told a news conference. "I feel it's wrong to brand me anything. I'm not that important."

Three-year-old driver gets wet

CAZENOVIA, New York (AP) — Going out to buy a puppy, Cecilia Kaler placed her three-year-old son in a child seat in the car running and got out to clear snow from the windshield. She never finished the job, as soon as his mother closed the door, little Michael Kaler was out, put the car in drive, and drove away. The car went down the driveway, across a busy road, narrowly missed a tree and a hydrant, rolled on its side, down an embankment and finally came to rest in a creek. Michael, wet, cold and otherwise unharmed, said Kaler, a nearby man heard Kaler screaming and rushed over. He smashed a window and freed little Michael.

Prague holds 14 leading dissidents

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslovak authorities kept 14 leading dissidents in custody Tuesday amid signs decisive action was being prepared against them after police violently broke up demonstrations they organised.

An evening television announcer Monday read out the names, addresses and dates of birth of the 14, including playwright Václav Havel and Charter 77 Human Rights Movement members Dana Nemcova and Sasha Vondra.

Police dragged them away from Wenceslas Square earlier in the day after they laid flowers to commemorate the 20th anniversary of student Jan Palach's self-immolation in the square to protest against the 1968 Soviet-led invasion.

The state news agency Ceteka said the 14 were detained for disrupting public order with "aggressive behaviour even despite repeated appeals to disperse by the public security force."

Public naming of the 14 before formal charges were lodged breached Czechoslovak legal procedure, dissident sources said.

"There are indications that they are going to be kept in custody," Charter activist Martin Palous told Reuters by telephone from Prague. "It is obvious that the authorities have decided to do something with them."

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Canada's bid to curtail refugee flow sparks furor

TONONTO (AP) — The government's attempt to clamp down on the flow of refugees into Canada is drawing protests from church and human rights groups that say its unjust and won't work.

The Canadian Council of Churches, which fought successfully against a previous system, has taken the new provisions to court.

"We want the law and the practice to live up to... what are fundamental principles of justice," Tom Clark, a spokesman for the council, said in an interview.

A backlog of some 85,000 refugee cases had built up since the government declared a limited amnesty in May 1986 for some 22,000 people then claiming refugee status.

On Jan. 1, Immigration Minister Barbara McDougall announced that there would be no amnesty this time and the government would spend \$83 million for an emergency program

me to screen all cases in the backlog over the next two years.

New, tighter regulations intended to keep any questionable cases out of Canada, as the refugees arrive at airports and border stations,